United Nations

United Nations Environment Programme

Report of the Governing Council

Twenty-first session (5-9 February 2001)

General Assembly

Official Records
Fifty-sixth session
Supplement No. 25 (A/56/25)

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INTRODUCTION

1. The twenty-first session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/Global Ministerial Environment Forum was held at UNEP headquarters, Nairobi, from 5 to 9 February 2001. The Council adopted the present proceedings at the 10th meeting of the session, on 9 February 2001.

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION/FORUM

A. Opening of the session/forum

2. The twenty-first session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum was opened on 5 February 2001 by Mr. László Miklós, President of the Governing Council at its twentieth session. Mr. Miklós spoke briefly after declaring the session open, thanking the Committee of Permanent Representatives and others for their efforts during his presidency and outlining some of the achievements and important events since the twentieth session of the Governing Council in February 1999. He noted in particular the Millennium Declaration of the United Nations General Assembly and the upcoming World Summit on Sustainable Development and expressed his hope that the current session would constitute an important contribution to the latter event.

3. Mr. Shafqat Kakakhel, Deputy Executive Director of UNEP, read out, on behalf of Mr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of UNEP, a message to the participants at the twenty-first session of the Governing Council from Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations. In his statement the Secretary-General pointed out the inadequacy of current responses to the challenges of sustainability and the urgent need to give such issues higher priority. Environmental sustainability, he said, was everybody's challenge, but the heaviest responsibility fell on those who had accepted positions of leadership, whether in politics, business or civil society. It was his hope that Governments would take advantage of the time remaining before the World Summit on Sustainable Development to revitalize the sustainability debate and to prepare the ground for the adoption of concrete and meaningful actions. Singling out poverty as one of the causes of ecological crises confronting the world today, he said that one of the ways in which the world could send a strong signal of its determination to adopt a new ethic of conservation and stewardship in all environmental actions would be to ensure the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol. While commending the spirit of international solidarity and partnership among States, civil society and the private sector manifested at the first meeting of the Global Ministerial Environment Forum, he stressed the need for a strong, financially secure institutional architecture, through which the world's States and their peoples could develop a coherent international environmental policy.

4. Mr. Francis Nyenze, Minister for Environment and Natural Resources of Kenya, welcomed the participants on behalf of the host Government and encouraged them to get to know his country. He lauded UNEP, describing it as an indispensable catalyst to action, and expressed his Government's commitment to UNEP ideals and activities. Critical problems nevertheless persisted, contributing to an environmental crisis facing the world. To meet the crisis, a spirit of cooperation was essential, and it was vital that the link between poverty and environmental degradation be recognized. The economic progress of developing countries would enhance environmental protection, and developed countries had to take that into account in policy-making. It was therefore vital that the session address matters such as technology transfer, information-sharing, as well as the development of renewable energy as an engine of economic growth in developing countries.

5. The opening meeting was also addressed by Ms. Nanako Misuno from Japan and Mr. Oliver Shalala from Zambia, representing the participants in the retreat organized by UNEP from 30 January to 2 February 2001 for members of its Youth Advisory Council, in preparation for the Governing Council session. They

asked why some of the earth's inhabitants enjoyed satisfactory living and environmental conditions while more than 1 billion suffered from many kinds of problems despite the numerous decisions adopted by UNEP over the years. They emphasized the need to move on from decisions to actions, stressing that "time is running out". They also urged ministers to recognize the link between poverty, overconsumption and the environment, and to press for immediate debt cancellation and the meeting of the 0.7 per cent target for official development assistance. A "green tax" on international trade could provide funding for sustainable development activities, and international financial and trade organizations should move to incorporate environmental considerations into their activities. Overconsumption in the developed countries should be reduced and an economic value should be placed on biodiversity. In addition, UNEP should uphold the commitment set out in chapter 25 of Agenda 21, and assist young people to make their due contribution to sustainable development.

6. Mrs. Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka, Executive Director, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) (Habitat), explaining that the Centre was now better positioned and equipped to fulfil its mandate as the United Nations system-wide focal point for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, stressed that she intended to carry on the revitalization process that Mr. Töpfer had started as interim Executive Director of the Centre. Since environment and human settlements development issues were closely linked, there was a shared nexus which must engender cooperation between UNEP and UNCHS (Habitat) in the implementation of their separate but closely linked mandates. The importance of the common and overlapping agenda of the two agencies had been reflected in the report of the United Nations Task Force on Environment and Human Settlements and the subsequent General Assembly resolution 53/242, which committed both agencies to a range of individual and joint responsibilities. UNEP and the Centre were already pooling their complementary capabilities in a number of concrete joint initiatives and activities, including the Sustainable Cities Programme, the Disaster Management Programme, the Managing Water for African Cities Programme and the Urban Environment Forum. In conclusion, she stressed the need to continue the close collaboration between the two agencies so that, together, they could help to alleviate the suffering of the poor and dispossessed in all human settlements.

7. Also at the opening meeting, the Council heard a statement from Mr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of UNEP. After outlining the international context in which the meeting was taking place, he highlighted UNEP's activities in the five areas of concentration which had been identified by the Council: environmental information, assessment and early warning; enhanced coordination of environmental conventions and development of environmental policy instruments; freshwater; technology transfer and industry; and support to Africa. At the institutional level, the major developments since the Council's twentieth session were the establishment of the Global Ministerial Environment Forum and of the Environmental Management Group. Emerging issues which merited thoroughgoing discussion during the session included globalization, the links between environment, human health and security, energy and global environmental governance. The problem of poverty — inextricably linked with environmental policies — was scheduled to be the subject of ministerial consultations on the basis of a background paper prepared by the secretariat. An issue of key importance which underlay all the discussions was the need to ensure adequate, stable and predictable financial resources for UNEP.

8. The full statement of the Executive Director was circulated under the symbol UNEP/GC.21/8.

B. Attendance

9. The following 53 States members of the Governing Council were represented at the session/forum: 1/

Antigua and Barbuda
Argentina
Austria
Belgium
Benin
Botswana
Brazil
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cameroon
Canada
China
Colombia
Comoros
Cuba
Denmark
Egypt
France
Gambia
Germany
Hungary
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Kazakhstan
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Malawi
Mexico
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nigeria
Norway
Pakistan
Poland
Republic of Korea
Russian Federation
Samoa
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Slovakia
Sudan
Syrian Arab Republic
Thailand
Turkey
Uganda
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Venezuela
Zimbabwe

1/ The membership of the Governing Council was determined by elections held at the 56th plenary meeting of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly, held on 26 November 1997, and the 38th plenary meeting of the fifty-fourth session, held on 25 October 1999.

10. The following States not members of the Governing Council but Members of the United Nations or members of a specialized agency or of the International Atomic Energy Agency were represented by observers:

Algeria
Angola
Australia
Bangladesh
Barbados
Belize
Cambodia
Central African Republic
Chad
Chile
Congo
Cook Islands
Côte d'Ivoire
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Djibouti
Dominican Republic
Eritrea
Ethiopia
Fiji
Finland
Ghana
Greece
Guatemala
Haiti
Holy See
Honduras
Iceland
Iraq
Ireland
Israel
Jordan
Kenya
Kiribati
Kuwait
Kyrgyzstan
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Latvia
Madagascar
Mali
Malta
Mauritania
Mauritius
Monaco
Mongolia
Morocco
Mozambique
Namibia
Nepal
Oman
Panama
Papua New Guinea
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Portugal
Romania
Rwanda
Saint Lucia
Sao Tome and Principe
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
Singapore
Slovenia
Somalia
South Africa
Spain
Sri Lanka
Swaziland
Sweden
Switzerland
Tajikistan
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Togo
Tunisia
United Republic of Tanzania
Uruguay
Yemen
Yugoslavia
Zambia

11. The observer for Palestine to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) also participated.

12. The following United Nations bodies, Secretariat units and convention secretariats were represented:

Commission on Sustainable Development
Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Waste and their Disposal
Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat
Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa
Department for Economic and Social Affairs
Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade
United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) (Habitat)
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
United Nations Development Programme Office to Combat Desertification and Drought (UNSO)
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
United Nations Non-governmental Liaison Service
United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON)
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

13. The following specialized agencies were represented:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
International Maritime Organization (IMO)
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
World Bank
World Health Organization (WHO)
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
World Trade Organization (WTO)

14. The following intergovernmental organizations were also represented:

African Development Bank (AfDB)
Asian Development Bank (AsDB)
Commonwealth Secretariat
European Community
General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union
Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)
Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS)
International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF)
Lake Chad Basin Commission
League of Arab States (LAS)
Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS)
South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP)
South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

15. In addition, 54 non-governmental organizations were represented by observers. Also present were some specially invited parliamentarians.

C. Election of officers

16. At the opening meeting of the session, on 5 February 2001, the Council elected the following officers by acclamation:

President:	Mr. David Anderson (Canada)
Vice-Presidents:	Ms. Rosa Elena Simeón Negrín (Cuba) Mr. Tupuk Sutrisno (Indonesia) Mr. Janusz Radziejowski (Poland)
Rapporteur:	Mr. Kezimbira Miyingo (Uganda)

17. The incoming President thanked all those who were participating in the meeting, especially the host country and the City of Nairobi, for their exemplary strong involvement in resolving environmental problems. Where some aspects of the environment had become degraded, it was in large part because of human activity, but human activity was now the essential element in promoting positive change in the environment. He mentioned the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer as examples of pioneering efforts of international cooperation to meet common problems. He also cited the recently negotiated treaty on persistent organic pollutants, which would hopefully be adopted soon and enter into force. Globalization had become the dominating phenomenon, which could become a positive force for the environment and its protection. Protection of the environment required influencing economic forces, such as the promotion of wise consumption, a cleaner environment and more liveable cities. He drew attention to an important item on the environment agenda — the World Summit on Sustainable Development to be held in 2002 — as well as to the preparatory process for that important meeting. Every effort was necessary to make innovative improvements and to find solutions that would capture understanding worldwide. All countries must work together for the common good, and any workable strategy would require the cooperation of the private sector. There was a need, he concluded, to ensure greater compliance and strengthen the role of UNEP and its regional offices, reinforcing links and institutions.

D. Credentials

18. In accordance with rule 17, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure, the Bureau examined the credentials of representatives attending the session/forum. The Bureau found the credentials in order and so reported to the Council, which approved the Bureau's report at the 10th plenary meeting of the session/forum, on 9 February 2001.

E. Agenda

19. At the opening meeting of the session, the Council adopted the following agenda for the session on the basis of the provisional agenda approved by the Council at its twentieth session and modified at the Global Ministerial Environment Forum/sixth special session of the Governing Council (UNEP/GC.21/1):

1. Opening of the session/forum.

2. Organization of the session/forum:

   (a) Election of officers;

   (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session/forum.

3. Credentials of representatives.

4. Policy issues:

   (a) State of the environment;

   (b) Emerging policy issues;

   (c) Coordination and cooperation within and outside the United Nations, including non-governmental organizations;

   (d) Governance of the United Nations Environment Programme.

5. Outcome of the first Global Ministerial Environment Forum/sixth special session of the Governing Council.

6. Follow-up of General Assembly resolutions.

7. Linkages among and support to environmental and environment-related conventions.

8. Contribution to future sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

9. Programme, the Environment Fund and administrative and other budgetary matters.

10. Provisional agenda, date and place of:

    (a) Seventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;

    (b) Twenty-second session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

11. Other matters.

12. Adoption of the report.

13. Closure of the session/forum.

F. Organization of the work of the session/forum

20. At the 1st plenary meeting of the session/forum, the Governing Council considered and approved the organization of the work of the session in the light of the recommendations contained in the annotated agenda and organization of work (UNEP/GC.21/1/Add.1) and the provisional timetable of meetings suggested by the Executive Director.

21. Also at its 1st meeting, the Council decided to establish, in accordance with rule 60 of its rules of procedure, a sessional Committee of the Whole to consider agenda item 9 (Programme, the Environment Fund and administrative and other budgetary matters). The Committee of the Whole would meet

concurrently with the plenary and was expected to conclude its work on Thursday, 8 February 2001. The Council also decided that all other substantive agenda items would be taken up directly in the plenary.

22. It was further decided at the 1st meeting of the session/forum that the Committee of the Whole would be chaired by Mr. Janusz Radziejowski (Poland), Vice-President of the Council. In addition, the Council decided that Mr. Tupuk Sutrisno (Indonesia), Vice-President of the Council, should assist the President in the performance of his functions, particularly by presiding over plenary meetings on his behalf. It was also decided to establish a drafting group to be chaired by Ms. Rosa Elena Simeón Negrín (Cuba), Vice-President of the Council.

G. Report of the ministerial consultations

23. The report of the ministerial consultations, held on 8 and 9 February 2001, is contained in annex II to document UNEP/GC.21/9.

H. Report of the Committee of the Whole

24. The Committee of the Whole held eight meetings under the chairmanship of Mr. Janusz Radziejowski (Poland), Vice-President of the Council, from 5 to 9 February 2001, to consider agenda item 9 (Programme, the Environment Fund and administrative and other budgetary matters), as allocated to it by the Council.

25. The report of the Committee of the Whole was taken note of by the Council at the 10th plenary meeting of the session/forum, on 9 February 2001, and is incorporated into chapter VIII of the proceedings (UNEP/GC.21/9).

II. MATTERS REQUIRING THE SPECIAL ATTENTION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND/OR THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

A. Date and place of the twenty-second session of the Governing Council/ Global Ministerial Environment Forum

26. At its 10th plenary meeting, on 9 February 2001, the Governing Council decided that its twenty-second session/Global Ministerial Environment Forum would be held at Nairobi from 3 to 7 February 2003.

B. Implementation of the Malmö Ministerial Declaration [2/]

27. By decision 21/18, the Council decided to transmit the Malmö Ministerial Declaration, as well as the decision itself, through the President of the Governing Council, to other intergovernmental bodies and conferences in the United Nations system, including international financial institutions, and to invite those bodies and conferences to promote its implementation.

28. The Council also decided to invite the Commission on Sustainable Development to consider the integration of the commitments contained in the Malmö Ministerial Declaration into its work, especially in preparation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

C. Governance of the United Nations Environment Programme and implementation of General Assembly resolution 53/242

29. By decision 21/20, the Council decided, subject to the availability of an offer from a host country, to hold its sessions in alternate years in the United Nations regions, where possible, on a rotational basis, in keeping with the spirit of its decision 20/17 of 5 February 1999. It also decided to discontinue the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials established under its decision 19/32 of 4 April 1997. It decided that the proceedings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives should be conducted in all official languages following the installation of full interpretation services in Nairobi. It invited the Environmental Management Group to publish a benchmark report on progress in its work at a regular interval to be agreed upon by the Group. It urged the Secretary-General to take measures to secure adequate human and financial resources required for the proper functioning of the secretariat of the Group. It also urged him to provide the necessary resources from the regular budget of the United Nations to UNEP for the biennium 2002-2003, in accordance with current budgetary practices, and to consider other ways of lending support to the strengthening of UNEP, in view of preparations for and the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

D. International environmental governance

30. By decision 21/21, the Council decided to establish an open-ended intergovernmental group of ministers or their representatives, with the Executive Director as an ex officio member, to undertake a comprehensive policy-oriented assessment of existing institutional weaknesses as well as future needs and options for strengthened international environmental governance, including the financing of UNEP, with a view to presenting a report containing analysis and options to the next session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum. It also requested its President to inform the Commission on Sustainable Development, at its first session as the preparatory body of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, of the decision itself and of the views expressed by Ministers of the Environment on

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2/ Governing Council decision SS.VI/1, annex.

international environmental governance at the twenty-first session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

E. Status of international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment

31. By decision 21/26, the Council authorized the Executive Director to transmit a report on the above subject and a related status table, on its behalf, together with comments made by delegations thereon, especially on the need for institutional capacity-building, as well as further information which the UNEP secretariat might receive by 31 May 2001, to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, in accordance with resolution 3436 (XXX).

F. The Environment Fund budgets: proposed biennial programme and support budget for 2002-2003

32. By decision 21/31, the Council appealed to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, in order to strengthen UNEP, to consider positively a substantial increase in the allocation to UNEP and UNON in the United Nations regular budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

G. Loan from the Environment Fund financial reserve

33. By decision 21/33, the Council authorized the Executive Director to approve an advance of up to $8 million from the Environment Fund financial reserve to the United Nations Secretariat on a loan basis towards the proposed construction of additional office accommodation at the United Nations complex in Nairobi, subject to and without prejudice to the final approval of the construction by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and, as appropriate, other competent authorities, in accordance with United Nations rules and procedures.

III. ADOPTION OF DECISIONS [3/]

Land degradation: Support for the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (decision 21/1)

34. At the 7th meeting of the Committee of the Whole, on 9 February 2001, the Committee approved the draft decision on the above subject for consideration by the Council on the basis of the compilation of draft decisions submitted by the drafting group (UNEP/GC.21/CW/L.2).

35. At its 10th plenary meeting of the session, the Council adopted the draft decision by consensus.

Enhancing the role of UNEP on forest-related issues (decision 21/2)

36. At the 8th meeting of the Committee of the Whole, on 9 February 2001, the Committee approved the draft decision on the above subject for consideration by the Council on the basis of the proposed draft decision submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran, as amended by the United States of America.

37. At its 10th plenary meeting of the session, the Council adopted the draft decision by consensus.

Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (decision 21/3)

38. At the 8th meeting of the Committee of the Whole, on 9 February 2001, the Committee approved the draft decision on the above subject for consideration by the Council on the basis of the compilation of draft decisions submitted by the working group on chemicals set up by the Committee to further consider this issue (UNEP/GC.21/CW/L.6).

39. At its 10th plenary meeting of the session, the Council adopted the draft decision by consensus.

Convention for implementing international action on certain persistent organic pollutants (decision 21/4)

40. At the 8th meeting of the Committee of the Whole, on 9 February 2001, the Committee approved the draft decision on the above subject for consideration by the Council on the basis of the compilation of draft decisions submitted by the working group on chemicals (UNEP/GC.21/CW/L.6).

41. At its 10th plenary meeting of the session, the Council adopted the draft decision by consensus.

Mercury assessment (decision 21/5)

42. At the 8th meeting of the Committee of the Whole, on 9 February 2001, the Committee approved the draft decision on the above subject for consideration by the Council on the basis of the compilation of draft decisions submitted by the working group on chemicals (UNEP/GC.21/CW/L.6), with a technical correction by the Chair of the contact group set up by the Committee to further consider this issue.

43. At its 10th plenary meeting of the session, the Council adopted the above draft decision by consensus.

3/ For the text of the decisions adopted by the Governing Council at its twenty-first session, see the annex to the present report.

Lead in gasoline (decision 21/6)

44. At the 8th meeting of the Committee of the Whole, on 9 February 2001, the Committee approved the draft decision on the above subject for consideration by the Council on the basis of the compilation of draft decisions submitted by the working group on chemicals (UNEP/GC.21/CW/L.6).

45. At its 10th plenary meeting of the session, the Council adopted the draft decision by consensus.

Chemicals management (decision 21/7)

46. At the 8th meeting of the Committee of the Whole, on 9 February 2001, the Committee approved the draft decision on the above subject for consideration by the Council on the basis of the compilation of draft decisions submitted by the working group on chemicals (UNEP/GC.21/CW/L.6), with a technical correction by the Chair of the contact group set up by the Committee to further consider this issue.

47. At its 10th plenary meeting of the session, the Council adopted the draft decision by consensus.

Biosafety (decision 21/8)

48. At the 7th meeting of the Committee of the Whole, on 9 February 2001, the Committee approved the draft decision on the above subject for consideration by the Council on the basis of the compilation of draft decisions submitted by the drafting group (UNEP/GC.21/CW/L.2).

49. At its 10th plenary session, the Council adopted the draft decision by consensus.

Atmosphere (decision 21/9)

50. At the 8th meeting of the Committee of the Whole, on 9 February 2001, the Committee approved the draft decision on the above subject for consideration by the Council on the basis of the compilation of draft decisions submitted by the drafting group (UNEP/GC.21/CW/L.2), as amended by Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Canada, China, Colombia, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Sweden (on behalf of the European Union).

51. At its 10th plenary meeting of the session, the Council adopted the draft decision by consensus.

Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (decision 21/10)

52. At the 7th meeting of the Committee of the Whole, on 9 February 2001, the Committee approved the draft decision on the above subject for consideration by the Council on the basis of the compilation of draft decisions submitted by the drafting group (UNEP/GC.21/CW/L.2).

53. At its 10th plenary meeting of the session, the Council adopted the draft decision by consensus.

Water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme (decision 21/11)

54. At the 7th meeting of the Committee of the Whole, on 9 February 2001, the Committee approved the draft decision on the above subject for consideration by the Council on the basis of the compilation of draft decisions submitted by the drafting group (UNEP/GC.21/CW/L.2).

55. At its 10th plenary meeting of the session, the Council adopted the draft decision by consensus.

Coral reefs (decision 21/12)

56. At the 7th meeting of the Committee of the Whole, on 9 February 2001, the Committee approved the draft decision on the above subject for consideration by the Council on the basis of the compilation of draft decisions submitted by the drafting group (UNEP/GC.21/CW/L.2).

57. At its 10th plenary meeting of the session, the Council adopted the draft decision by consensus.

Global assessment of the state of the marine environment (decision 21/13)

58. At the 8th meeting of the Committee of the Whole, on 9 February 2001, the Committee approved the draft decision on the above subject for consideration by the Council on the basis of draft decision contained in the conference room paper submitted by Iceland (UNEP/GC.21/CW/CRP.2), as amended by Antigua and Barbuda, Colombia, Sweden (on behalf of the European Union), Turkey and the United States of America.

59. Following the approval of the draft decision, the representative of Turkey wished the record of the meeting to reflect that endorsement of the draft decision which contained a reference to the 1982 Convention on the Law of the Sea neither prejudiced nor affected the position of Turkey concerning the Convention on the Law of the Sea.

60. At its 10th plenary meeting of the session, the Council adopted the draft decision by consensus.

Trade and environment (decision 21/14)

61. At the 7th meeting of the Committee of the Whole, on 9 February 2001, the Committee approved the draft decision on the above subject for consideration by the Council on the basis of the compilation of draft decisions submitted by the informal contact group on trade and environment (UNEP/GC.21/CW/L.3), with a technical correction by the convenor of the contact group set up by the Committee to further consider this issue.

62. At its 10th plenary meeting of the session, the Council adopted the draft decision by consensus.

Support to Africa (decision 21/15)

63. At the 7th meeting of the Committee of the Whole, on 9 February 2001, the Committee approved the draft decision on the above subject for consideration by the Council on the basis of the compilation of draft decisions submitted by the drafting group (UNEP/GC.21/CW/L.2).

64. At its 10th plenary meeting of the session, the Council adopted the draft decision by consensus.

Environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian territories (decision 21/16)

65. At the 7th meeting of the Committee of the Whole, on 9 February 2001, the Committee agreed to transmit, in square brackets, the draft decision on the above subject for consideration by the Council on the basis of the draft decision contained in conference room paper UNEP/GC.21/CW/CRP.3, submitted by Egypt (on behalf of the Arab Group).

66. The representative of the United States of America wished the following statement to be placed in the record of the meeting:

> "It is disappointing that we are obliged yet again to consider a draft decision which attempts to insinuate highly contentious political issues into an essentially science-based forum which is otherwise respected for its ability to work in harmony and cooperation to find ways to address a profound

challenge facing our governments, the improvement of the environmental inheritance we will leave to our children.

"The fact that this issue has been considered repeatedly over the past decades only attests to the calculated decision by some among us to cheapen the value of this forum and to seek to twist it to their own ends. We cannot accept that simply having spoken of this issue before, no matter how often, justifies the Governing Council entering into topics so alien to its mandate. Any attempt to cloak this issue in environmental dressing is a cheap construct that in the end is transparent to all.

"Additionally, we are being asked to accept the premise that the Governing Council should insert itself into regional issues without the consent or willing involvement of an involved government. It is ironic that several among those introduced this draft decision have vehemently denounced the possibility that UNEP might become involved in politically controversial issues that directly affect their own interests — most notably with regard to water issues. The distinction is non-existent and purely a matter of convenience."

67. The representative of Sweden, speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that in the opinion of the European Union, this was predominantly a political matter that should not be dealt with at that forum. The European Union would therefore abstain in the event of a vote.

68. The representative of Egypt stressed his country's position that this was not a new issue in the Governing Council and that it was within the UNEP's mandate to consider the environmental status of and provide assistance to the Palestinian State.

69. The representative of Israel said that the draft decision created a connection with political issues and discredited environmentalists because it turned the Governing Council into a political forum. UNEP had always focused on global environmental issues and should not be used for blatant political purposes.

70. The observer for Palestine expressed appreciation to those delegations that supported a "humanitarian request" from the Palestinian people who were facing an environmental catastrophe.

71. At the request of the representative of the United States of America, a vote on the draft decision was taken by roll-call. The draft decision was adopted by 19 votes to 1, with 21 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Argentina, Brazil, Burundi, China, Colombia, Cuba, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mexico, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Turkey, Venezuela, Zimbabwe

Against: United States of America

Abstaining: Antigua and Barbuda, Austria, Belgium, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Malawi, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Samoa, Thailand, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Further improvement of the strategic framework on environmental emergency prevention, preparedness, assessment, response and mitigation (decision 21/17)

72. At the 7th meeting of the Committee of the Whole, on 9 February 2001, the Committee approved the draft decision on the above subject for consideration by the Council on the basis of the compilation of draft decisions submitted by the drafting group (UNEP/GC.21/CW/L.2), as amended by Canada, Colombia and the United States of America.

73. At its 10th plenary meeting of the session, the Council adopted the draft decision by consensus.

Implementation of the Malmö Ministerial Declaration (decision 21/18)

74. At the 7th meeting of the Committee of the Whole, on 9 February 2001, the Committee approved the draft decision on the above subject for consideration by the Council on the basis of the compilation of draft decisions submitted by the drafting group (UNEP/GC.21/CW/L.2).

75. At its 10th plenary meeting of the session, the Council adopted the draft decision by consensus.

The role of civil society (decision 21/19)

76. At the 7th meeting of the Committee of the Whole, on 9 February 2001, the Committee approved the draft decision on the above subject for consideration by the Council on the basis of the compilation of draft decisions submitted by the drafting group (UNEP/GC.21/CW/L.2), as amended by Canada.

77. At its 10th plenary meeting of the session, the Council adopted the draft decision by consensus.

Governance of the United Nations Environment Programme and implementation of General Assembly resolution 53/242 (decision 21/20)

78. At the 7th meeting of the Committee of the Whole, on 9 February 2001, the Committee approved the draft decision on the above subject for consideration by the Council on the basis of the draft decision submitted by the contact group set up to further consider this issue (UNEP/GC.21/CW/L.4), with technical corrections by the Chair of the contact group, and as amended by Antigua and Barbuda, Canada, Colombia, Sweden (on behalf of the European Union) and the United States of America.

79. Following the approval of the draft decision, the representative of Sweden (on behalf of the European Union) wished the report of the meeting to reflect the fact that the European Union considered the Global Compact to be a useful measure to promote environmental concerns in the private sector, and it appreciated UNEP initiatives to support its implementation. The General Assembly had discussed the matter and had not pronounced any negative stance. The Malmö Ministerial Declaration mentioned the Global Compact in a favourable manner and it was unfortunate that the Governing Council was taking one step back. The European Union supported the "Global Compact in Practice" event held in Nairobi on 3 and 4 February 2001, and was pleased that it drew upon multi-stakeholder participation.

80. At its 10th plenary meeting of the session, the Council adopted the draft decision by consensus.

International environmental governance (draft decision 21/21)

81. At the 10th plenary meeting of the session, the Council considered the draft decision on the above subject on the basis of a text submitted by the President of the Council.

82. The representative of Argentina, referring to the adoption of the draft decision, stated that it had been agreed to have reflected in the report of the session/forum the need to ensure balanced geographical representation in the Intergovernmental Group on Governance.

83. The representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland wished to record his understanding that the Intergovernmental Group on Governance would be expected to hold its first meeting before the end of April 2001 and that preparations would be conducted expeditiously for that purpose.

84. The representative of China, although not opposed to the adoption of the draft decision, wished to record his country's reservation due to the late tabling of the draft decision.

85. At its 10th plenary meeting of the session, the Council adopted the draft decision by consensus.

Engagement and involvement of young people in the United Nations Environment Programme (decision 21/22)

86. At the 6th meeting of the Committee of the Whole, on 9 February 2001, the Committee approved the draft decision on the above subject for consideration by the Council on the basis of the proposal contained in conference room paper UNEP/GC.21/CW/CRP.4, submitted by Canada and Sweden (on behalf of the European Union) on behalf of the Youth Advisory Council. At its 8th meeting, the Committee approved technical revisions by one of the co-sponsors of the draft decision.

87. At its 10th plenary meeting of the session, the Council adopted the draft decision by consensus.

Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the First Decade of the Twenty-first Century (decision 21/23)

88. At the 7th meeting of the Committee of the Whole, on 9 February 2001, the Committee approved the draft decision on the above subject for consideration by the Council on the basis of the compilation of draft decisions submitted by the drafting group (UNEP/GC.21/CW/L.2).

89. At its 10th plenary meeting of the session, the Council adopted the draft decision by consensus.

Policy and advisory services in key areas of institution-building (decision 21/24)

90. At the 7th meeting of the Committee of the Whole, on 9 February 2001, the Committee approved the draft decision on the above subject for consideration by the Council on the basis of the compilation of draft decisions submitted by the drafting group (UNEP/GC.21/CW/L.2).

91. At its 10th plenary meeting of the session, the Council adopted the draft decision by consensus.

Participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the work of the Global Environment Facility (decision 21/25)

92. At the 7th meeting of the Committee of the Whole, on 9 February 2001, the Committee approved the draft decision on the above subject for consideration by the Council on the basis of the compilation of draft decisions submitted by the drafting group (UNEP/GC.21/CW/L.2).

93. At its 10th plenary meeting of the session, the Council adopted the draft decision by consensus.

Status of international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment (decision 21/26)

94. At the 7th meeting of the Committee of the Whole, on 9 February 2001, the Committee approved the draft decision on the above subject for consideration by the Council on the basis of the compilation of draft decisions submitted by the drafting group (UNEP/GC.21/CW/L.2).

95. At its 10th plenary meeting of the session, the Council adopted the draft decision by consensus.

Compliance with and enforcement of multilateral environmental agreements (decision 21/27)

96. At the 7th meeting of the Committee of the Whole, on 9 February 2001, the Committee approved the draft decision on the above subject for consideration by the Council on the basis of the compilation of draft decisions submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.21/L.1).

97. At its 10th plenary meeting of the session, the Council adopted the draft decision by consensus.

Further development and strengthening of regional seas programmes: promoting the conservation and sustainable use of the marine and coastal environment, building partnerships and establishing linkages with multilateral environmental agreements (decision 21/28)

98. At the 7th meeting of the Committee of the Whole, on 9 February 2001, the Committee approved the draft decision on the above subject for consideration by the Council on the basis of the compilation of draft decisions submitted by the drafting group (UNEP/GC.21/CW/L.2), as amended by Antigua and Barbuda.

99. At its 10th plenary meeting of the session, the Council adopted the draft decision by consensus.

Establishment of a regional seas programme for the East Central Pacific region (decision 21/29)

100. At the 7th meeting of the Committee of the Whole, on 9 February 2001, the Committee approved the draft decision on the above subject for consideration by the Council on the basis of the compilation of draft decisions submitted by the drafting group (UNEP/GC.21/CW/L.2).

101. At its 10th plenary meeting of the session, the Council adopted the draft decision by consensus.

The implementation of the North-West Pacific Action Plan (decision 21/30)

102. At the 8th meeting of the Committee of the Whole, on 9 February 2001, the Committee approved the draft decision on the above subject for consideration by the Council on the basis of the compilation of draft decisions submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.21/L.1), as amended by China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation.

103. At its 10th plenary meeting of the session, the Council adopted the draft decision by consensus.

The Environment Fund budgets: proposed biennial programme and support budget for 2002-2003 (decision 21/31)

104. At the 7th meeting of the Committee of the Whole, on 9 February 2001, the Committee approved the draft decision on the above subject for consideration by the Council on the basis of the draft decision submitted by the informal open-ended working group on budget (UNEP/GC.21/CW/L.5), with technical corrections by the Chair of that working group, and as amended by Sweden (on behalf of the European Union).

105. Following the approval of the draft decision, the representative of the United States of America requested that the following statement be placed in the record of the meeting:

> "With regard to the Environment Fund budget, we fully understand the view that inadequate resources are available to strengthen UNON's administrative services. However, in light of more general United States policy regarding the United Nations regular budget, the United States would not support a call for increases in United Nations regular budget funding".

106. At its 10th plenary meeting of the session, the Council adopted the draft decision by consensus.

Administrative and other budgetary matters (decision 21/32)

107. At the 7th meeting of the Committee of the Whole, on 9 February 2001, the Committee approved the draft decision on the above subject for consideration by the Council on the basis of the draft decision submitted by the informal open-ended working group on budget (UNEP/GC.21/CW/L.5).

108. At its 10th plenary meeting of the session, the Council adopted the draft decision by consensus.

Loan from the Environment Fund financial reserve (decision 21/33)

109. At the 7th meeting of the Committee of the Whole, on 9 February 2001, the Committee approved the draft decision on the above subject for consideration by the Council on the basis of the draft decision submitted by the informal open-ended working group on budget (UNEP/GC.21/CW/L.5), with technical corrections by the Chair of that working group, and as amended by Sweden (on behalf of the European Union), supported by Argentina, Switzerland and the United States of America.

110. At its 10th plenary meeting of the session, the Council adopted the draft decision by consensus.

Mercure satellite communications system (decision 21/34)

111. At the 7th meeting of the Committee of the Whole, on 9 February 2001, the Committee approved the draft decision on the above subject for consideration by the Council on the basis of the draft decision submitted by the informal open-ended working group on budget (UNEP/GC.21/CW/L.5).

112. At its 10th plenary meeting of the session, the Council adopted the draft decision by consensus.

Other decisions

Provisional agenda, date and place of the seventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and the twenty-second session of the Governing Council/ Global Ministerial Environment Forum

113. At the 10th plenary session, on 9 February 2001, the Council had before it a proposal by the Bureau concerning the provisional agenda, date and place of the both the seventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and the twenty-second session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (UNEP/GC.21/L.3).

114. The proposal of the Bureau was adopted by consensus.

Annex

DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNING COUNCIL AT ITS TWENTY-FIRST SESSION

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21/1. Land degradation: support for the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 20/10 of 5 February 1999,

Recognizing that land degradation is a major problem for many countries, particularly those in Africa,

Noting the statement by the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, that "despite important efforts made by all interested partners, adequate financial and other resources have not been mobilized, constraining the ability of affected developing country Parties to fulfil their commitments under the Convention",[4/]

Recalling also the United Nations Secretary-General's report "We the peoples: the role of the United Nations in the twenty-first century"[5/] and its chapter V, section C, "Defending the soil",

Recalling the experience of the United Nations Environment Programme in developing desertification assessments and databases, in research initiatives and cooperative studies with the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment of the International Council of Scientific Unions, and through the numerous joint programmes and studies on desertification with various centres of excellence including those of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research and with other United Nations organizations,

1. Welcomes the efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme to assist countries affected by land degradation, strengthen cooperation and collaboration with other relevant United Nations bodies and agencies and other organizations in the field of land degradation, develop and implement land-degradation projects in accordance with the action plan on land degradation of the Global Environment Facility, and to assist Governments in the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;

2. Welcomes also the increasing collaboration between the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), the International Centre of Research in Agroforestry and other relevant Nairobi based agencies in addressing the environmental aspects of land degradation;

3. Further welcomes the intergovernmental dialogue being conducted within the framework of the regional ministerial conferences on the environment relating to land degradation and its impacts on the environment;

4. Also welcomes the efforts being taken by the United Nations Environment Programme to review and analyse its role in land use management, including soil protection, in conformity with the functional approaches approved by the Governing Council at its twentieth session in its decision 20/10;

4/ Report of the Conference of the Parties on its fourth session, held in Bonn from 11 to 22 December 2000, part two: action taken by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth session (ICCD/COP(4)/11/Add.1), decision 8/COP.4, annex.

5/ A/54/2000.

5. Requests the Executive Director to strengthen the capability of the United Nations Environment Programme to respond to global land issues in order to fulfil the mandate of Task Manager for chapter 12 of Agenda 21 [6/] (and other related chapters), and to support the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to Combat Desertification, in particular its Committee on Science and Technology in the assessment and monitoring of desertification and the enhancement of the scientific and technological knowledge base on land degradation;

6. Requests the Executive Director to further strengthen the functional integration of land resource management and soil conservation policy of the United Nations Environment Programme as outlined in its land policy review;

7. Requests the Executive Director to strengthen the United Nations Environment Programme's collaboration with the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme with a view to enhancing the Global Environment Facility assistance to countries for activities identified in the Global Environment Facility's action plan on land degradation, in view of the interlinkages between land degradation and the focal areas of the Global Environment Facility;

8. Welcomes the decision on "Relations with Conventions" adopted by the Global Environment Facility Council on 6 November 2000 requesting the Chief Executive Officer to explore the best options for enhancing the support of the Facility in assisting countries, especially those in Africa, in implementing the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification taking into account the third replenishment, and in this regard stresses the need to enhance the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in the Global Environment Facility in assisting African countries to implement the Convention to Combat Desertification at regional and subregional levels as well as at national level, when appropriate, based on its demonstrated comparative advantage as well as its unique relation to the African continent;

9. Also requests the Executive Director to strengthen collaboration with relevant United Nations organizations and agencies and other organizations concerned with assistance to countries for mitigating land degradation and for the implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification;

10. Further requests the Executive Director, in cooperation with other bodies, particularly the secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification, the Global Mechanism under the Convention and the other implementing agencies of the Global Environment Facility, as well as relevant regional and subregional organizations, to continue to assist countries affected by land degradation, in the development of a pipeline of land-degradation projects for financing by the Global Environment Facility and other relevant financial mechanisms.

10th meeting
9 February 2001

21/2. Enhancing the role of the United Nations Environment Programme on forest-related issues

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 18/30 of 25 May 1995, requesting the Executive Director to place the United Nations Environment Programme experience and the Programme expertise in environmental issues related to forests in support of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests, under the aegis of the Commission on Sustainable Development,

Taking note of the report of the fourth and the last sessions of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests,

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[6/] Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I and Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), Vol. I: Resolutions Adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

Also taking note of the Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35 of 18 October 2000 deciding the establishment of the United Nations Forum on Forests as one of the subsidiary bodies of the Council,

1. Commends the Executive Director for the positive outcomes of the support given by the United Nations Environment Programme to the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests and its successor the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests;

2. Requests the Executive Director to continue supporting the programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests in relation to the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme and the functioning of its secretariat as done during the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests process;

3. Encourages the Executive Director to participate actively in the formation of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, and to assist in enhancing cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system and with related organizations of the Interagency Partnership on Forests to achieve United Nations Forum on Forests goals;

4. Welcomes the leading role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the principal United Nations body in the field of the environment and contribution it can make within the multi-year programme of work and Plan of Action of the United Nations Forum on Forests, as defined in the mandate of the United Nations Forum on Forests;

5. Calls upon Governments, financial institutions and other organizations to make financial contributions in order to facilitate United Nations Environment Programme participation and support to the implementation of multi-year programme of work and Plan of Action of the United Nations Forum on Forests.

10th meeting
9 February 2001

21/3. Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

The Governing Council,

Recalling chapter 19 of Agenda 21 6/ and its decisions 18/12 of 26 May 1995, 19/13 A of 7 February 1997, SS.V/5 of 22 May 1998 and 20/22 of 4 February 1999,

Noting with appreciation the work done by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee in overseeing the implementation of the interim prior informed consent procedure and in preparing for the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties,

Concerned about the slow progress in ratifying, accepting, approving or acceding to the Convention,

1. Calls upon States and regional economic integration organizations entitled to do so to ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, with a view, as underscored in the Priorities of Action beyond 2000 adopted by the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety at its third session,-7/ to its entry into force as soon as possible, preferably by the fourth session of the Forum in 2003. All efforts should be made to ensure that the necessary procedures are put into place so that countries can successfully implement the Convention in a prompt manner;

7/ Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety third session Forum III final report (IFCS/Forum III/23w), annex 6.

2. Also calls upon States and regional economic integration organizations to make voluntary contributions to the trust fund established by the United Nations Environment Programme in order to support the interim arrangements and the operation of the Conference of the Parties until the end of the fiscal year in which the first meeting of the Conference of Parties takes place, and to ensure the full and effective participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the further work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee;

3. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-second session on the progress in implementing the interim prior informed consent procedure and in preparing for the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as well as the present decision.

10th meeting
9 February 2001

21/4. Convention for implementing international action on certain persistent organic pollutants

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 18/32 of 25 May 1995, 19/13 C of 7 February 1997 and 20/24 of 4 February 1999 on persistent organic pollutants,

Noting with appreciation that through the "POPs Club" funding effort, Governments and other actors in a position to so provided the necessary financial resources to enable the full and effective functioning of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for an International Legally Binding Instrument for Implementing International Action on Certain Persistent Organic Pollutants as called upon in paragraph 17 of Governing Council decision 19/13 C,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on international action to protect human health and the environment through measures which will reduce and/or eliminate emissions and discharges of persistent organic pollutants, including the development of a legally binding instrument,[8/]

1. Welcomes the completion of the negotiations of the convention for implementing international action on certain persistent organic pollutants [2/] which was accomplished before the end of the year 2000 as requested in paragraph 12 of its decision 19/13 C;

2. Calls on Governments and regional economic integration organizations to adopt and thereafter sign the Convention at the Conference of Plenipotentiaries to be held in Stockholm from 22 to 23 May 2001;

3. Encourages countries to ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Convention with a view to its entry into force as soon as possible, preferably by 2004, as underscored in the Priorities of Action beyond 2000 adopted by the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety at its third session;

4. Authorizes the participation of the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme in an interim secretariat and in a secretariat to the Convention, if so decided by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the Convention provided that such arrangements are satisfactory to the Executive Director and that costs are met through extrabudgetary resources;

8/ UNEP/GC.21/2.

2/ For the text of the convention as agreed by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for an International Legally Binding Instrument for Implementing International Action on Certain Persistent Organic Pollutants at its fifth session, see UNEP/POPS/INC.5/7.

5. Requests the Executive Director to promote full cooperation between such a secretariat and the secretariats of other relevant conventions, in particular with respect to the development of support to Governments in developing implementation plans;

6. Urges the Executive Director through the interim secretariat of the Convention to assist in the implementation of relevant resolutions of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries with a view to facilitating capacity-building, early entry into force and financing;

7. Invites the Executive Director to take actions to facilitate voluntary implementation of the Convention prior to its entry into force if such action is called for by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries;

8. Appeals to Governments as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector to provide sufficient financial resources necessary for implementation of interim arrangements for the Convention prior to the first meeting of its Conference of the Parties;

9. Requests the Executive Director to continue taking actions as requested by the Governing Council in its decision 19/13 C, including the immediate actions identified in paragraph 13 of that decision;

10. Encourages Governments as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector to provide financial and in-kind contributions for supporting implementation of the immediate actions as called for in paragraph 13 of Governing Council decision 19/13 C;

11. Requests the Executive Director to invite the Council of the Global Environment Facility to take into account the relevant resolutions of the Stockholm Conference of Plenipotentiaries and consider ways and means of implementing them.

10th meeting
9 February 2001

21/5. Mercury assessment

The Governing Council,

Having considered the status report of the Executive Director regarding the work of the United Nations Environment Programme Chemicals Unit in the past biennium,[10/]

Noting with appreciation the accomplishment of the Executive Director in the chemicals management area,

Recalling the Barrow Declaration on the Occasion of the Second Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council on 12 and 13 October 2000, in which the Council noted that releases of mercury have harmful effects on human health and may damage ecosystems of environmental and economic importance, and called upon the United Nations Environment Programme to initiate a global assessment of mercury that could form the basis for appropriate international action in which the Arctic States would participate actively,

Recognizing that scientific studies have established that mercury cycles globally,

Noting the decision taken at the eighteenth session of the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution[11/] arising from the concern of delegates about mercury as a global pollutant, to invite the United Nations Environment Programme to initiate an assessment of mercury and to consider future action,

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10/ UNEP/GC.21/INF/20.

11/ Report of the eighteenth session of the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, November-December 2000 (ECE/EB.AIR/71).

Mindful of the precautionary approach as set forth in principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development 12/ and underlining the need to take preventive action to protect human health and environment,

1. Invites the Executive Director, in cooperation with other members of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, to initiate an expeditious, open, transparent and inclusive process that includes contributions from Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector to undertake a global assessment of mercury and its compounds to be to the Governing Council at its session in 2003, which will include the following elements:

(a) To summarize existing information including recent authoritative reviews of the chemistry, including transformation and methylation processes, toxicology, and impacts of mercury on human health and the environment;

(b) To compile and summarize existing information concerning the global natural and anthropogenic sources of mercury;

(c) To consolidate and analyse information regarding relevant environmental long-range transport and the origin, pathways, deposition and transformation of these substances on a global scale;

(d) To examine and describe the sources of release of mercury to the environment, and the current production and use patterns of mercury as a global commodity;

(e) To compile and summarize information about prevention and control technologies and practices, and their associated costs and effectiveness, that could reduce and/or eliminate releases of mercury, including the use of suitable substitutes, where applicable;

(f) To describe ongoing actions and compile information about future plans at the national, subregional or regional levels for controlling releases, and limiting use and exposures, including waste management practices;

(g) To outline options for consideration at the twenty-second session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum addressing any significant global adverse impacts of mercury, inter alia, by reducing and or eliminating the use, emissions, discharges and losses of mercury and its compounds; improving international cooperation; and ways to enhance risk communication;

(h) To provide, for elements (a) through (f), a summary description of scientific and technical information needs and data gaps;

2. Requests the Executive Director to report on the results of the assessment to the Governing Council at its twenty-second session, and agrees to consider whether there is a need for assessments of other heavy metals of possible global concern at that session.

10th meeting
9 February 2001

12/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I and Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), Vol. I: Resolutions Adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex I.

21/6. Lead in gasoline

The Governing Council,

Recalling the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, adopted by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session in 1997, 13/ in which the Assembly emphasized the importance of accelerating the process of eliminating the unsafe uses of lead, including the use of lead in gasoline, worldwide (paragraph 31 of the Programme),

Concerned about the health risks to humans, especially children, caused by exposure to lead in gasoline,

Acknowledging the important role and responsibility of industry and other stakeholders in the chemicals area,

1. Calls upon Governments who have not yet done so to eliminate the use of lead in gasoline;

2. Urges Governments, intergovernmental organizations, the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety and civil society to participate actively in assisting national Governments in this phase-out, including by making available information, technical assistance, capacity-building, and funding necessary to enable developing countries, especially least developed countries and countries with economies in transition, to take an active part in the phase-out.

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21/7. Chemicals management

The Governing Council,

Aware of the concerns of the international community regarding the sound management of chemicals, as expressed in chapter 19 of Agenda 21, 6/

Mindful of the precautionary approach as set forth in principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development 12/ and underlining the need to take preventive action to protect human health and environment,

Also underlining the need to closely integrate control of chemicals and pollution control,

Recalling its decision 19/13 of February 1997 and its decision 20/23 of 4 February 1999,

Taking note of the progress made by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee preparing for the entry into force of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade,

Welcoming the completion of the negotiations of the future Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants,

Considering the note by the Executive Director on options for enhanced coherence and efficiency among international activities related to chemicals, 10/

13/ General Assembly resolution S-19/2, annex.

Acknowledging the important role and responsibility of industry and other stakeholders in the chemicals area,

Underlining the importance for all sectors of society of transparency and accessibility of information, including classification and labelling of chemicals, in the sound management of chemicals,

Stressing the need to strengthen international cooperation in the field of chemicals management in order to enhance coherence and efficiency and the valuable role of the Intergovernmental Forum of Chemical Safety and the Inter-Organization Programme for Sound Management of Chemicals in examining the issues related to international chemicals management,

Promoting the implementation of the priorities outlined in the Bahia Declaration on Chemical Safety, 7/ adopted at the third session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety in October 2000, in all countries, including least developed countries and countries with economies in transition,

Acknowledging the work accomplished under chapter 19 of Agenda 21 and the action priorities adopted at the third session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety,

Noting that much needs to be done to accomplish the intent of chapter 19, including the commitment to seek ways of securing greater and more stable flows of resources to enable further work on existing agreements and priorities,

1. Welcomes and supports the Bahia Declaration and the Priorities for Action beyond 2000 adopted by the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety at its third session in Salvador da Bahia, Brazil in October 2000; 7/

2. Emphasizing the essential role of sound management of chemicals in sustainable development and the protection of human health and the environment, requests the Executive Director to act as a recipient of and disseminator for the information made available pursuant to chapter II, paragraph 2 of the Bahia Declaration, and to assist in the development of an information exchange network on capacity-building for the sound management of chemicals;

3. Invites individual countries to share their national experiences in chemicals management with the Executive Director, as appropriate, to assist in capacity-building efforts as outlined in the Bahia Declaration and the Priorities for Action beyond 2000;

4. Requests the Executive Director to report to it at its twenty-second session on the United Nations Environment Programme's contribution to the implementation of the Bahia Declaration and the Priorities for Action beyond 2000;

5. Requests the Executive Director, in consultation with Governments, the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety and other relevant organizations and stakeholders, to examine the need for a strategic approach to international chemicals management and to prepare a report on this subject for detailed consideration at the seventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum in 2002;

6. Urges Governments, the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety and other relevant organizations and stakeholders to participate actively in this process.

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21/8. Biosafety

The Governing Council,

Recalling that a number of delegates commended the outcome of the United Nations Environment Programme/Global Environment Facility Pilot Biosafety Enabling Activity Project and progress made by participating countries in identifying and prioritizing the requirements for biosafety capacity-building during the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity held in Nairobi, from 15 to 26 May 2000,

Also recalling that many countries expressed their desire to participate in a similar but expanded programme that would cater for the development of the national biosafety frameworks, during the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity as well as the Global Environment Facility lunchtime workshop on the United Nations Environment Programme/Global Environment Facility Pilot Biosafety Enabling Activity Project and the ministerial round table on capacity-building in developing countries to facilitate the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,

1. Notes with appreciation the successful completion of the United Nations Environment Programme/Global Environment Facility Pilot Biosafety Enabling Activity Project implemented by national executing agencies of 18 Global Environment Facility-eligible countries through the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme in collaboration with the Information Resource for the Release of Organisms into the Environment and other institutions;

2. Commends the Global Environment Facility approval of the United Nations Environment Programme/Global Environment Facility Development of National Biosafety Frameworks Project to benefit up to 100 Global Environment Facility-eligible developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

3. Congratulates the 18 countries that participated in the United Nations Environment Programme/Global Environment Facility Pilot Enabling Activity Project for their exemplary execution of the national component of the pilot project, and invites the Global Environment Facility to provide further financial support to these and other c[illegible]tries for the implementation of national biosafety frameworks (or similar policy administrative, legislative biosafety frameworks) they have developed in preparation for the entry into force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and for the first phase of the biosafety clearing house;

4. Compliments countries that have already ratified the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety as well as those countries that have signed the Protocol, noting the subsequent need for its ratification, and encourages countries that have not yet signed to do so followed by ratification thereof;

5. Requests the Executive Director to continue mobilizing resources, including through the Global Environment Facility, for support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, particularly countries that are centres of origin and centres of genetic diversity for capacity-building initiatives in the field of biosafety that would facilitate effective implementation of their national biosafety frameworks in the context of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the work of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, in collaboration with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and consistent with the obligations of the parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity under Article 8 (g) of the Convention;

6. Further requests the Executive Director to mobilize resources and support as appropriate, the establishment and/or further strengthening of subregional and regional biosafety risk-assessment capabilities considering the capacity need at national level, in collaboration with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant organizations;

7. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-second session on progress in the implementation of the present decision.

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21/9. Atmosphere

A. The Climate Agenda and the World Climate Impact Assessment and Response Strategies Programme

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 16/41 IV of 31 May 1991 on the World Climate Programme as well as 17/24 C of 21 May 1993 and 18/20 A of 26 May 1995 on the Climate Agenda,

Noting resolution 52/200 of 20 December 2000 of the General Assembly on international cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon,

Having regard for the need for early warning and preparedness measures to respond to climate related disasters such as droughts and floods and forest fires,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme in the area of climate especially in the implementation of thrust 3 of the Climate Agenda on "Studies of Climate Impacts Assessment and Response Strategies to Reduce Vulnerability" and the World Climate Impact Assessment and Response Strategies Programme, 14/

Noting the collaboration between the United Nations Environment Programme, the National Centre for Atmospheric Research, the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations University, in the implementation of the project "Reducing the Impact Environmental Emergencies through Early Warning and Preparedness: The case of El Niño-Southern Oscillation" funded by the United Nations Foundation for International Partnerships,

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director and requests that the United Nations Environment Programme continues to carry out activities related to Climate Impact Assessment and Response Strategies in partnership with the other agencies collaborating in the Climate Agenda;

2. Commends the exemplary collaboration exhibited in the implementation of the United Nations Foundation for International Partnership funded El Niño projects;

3. Requests the Executive Director to further promote the need for technical assistance to developing countries in order to implement multilateral environmental agreements;

4. Urges all Governments in line with their commitments and obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change:

(a) To promote the establishment of national climate programmes that would address, inter alia, integrated assessment of climate impacts and response strategies;

(b) To promote and cooperate in building the technical and scientific capacity of developing countries in order to encourage their full partnership in the Climate Agenda;

14/ UNEP/GC.21/2, chapter V, section A.

(c) To support international organizations involved in the implementation of the Climate Agenda for the purpose of effective implementation of the Agenda and management of the programme through the Inter-Agency Committee on the Climate Agenda without duplicating any existing efforts;

5. Urges the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to collaborate with relevant international organizations within the integrating framework of the Climate Agenda, in furthering the objectives of the Agenda.

B. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 17/24 A of 21 May 1993,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and report of its Chair, [15/]

Noting with satisfaction the excellent scientific support that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has given to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change through its comprehensive assessment reports and at their request special reports and other technical papers,

Recognizing the value of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change assessments in addressing broader policy issues related to environment and sustainable development,

Noting further that the Global Environment Facility has approved an Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change project initiative: Assessment of impacts and adaptation to climate change in multiple regions and sectors,

1. Takes note of the reports of the Executive Director and the Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change;

2. Requests the Executive Director jointly with the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization to continue the arrangements to support the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and to ensure the participation of experts from all regions from as many countries as possible and facilitate and encourage effective participation of experts from developing countries in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change assessments;

3. Requests the panel to continue to update the assessments of available information on the science, impacts, response options, and technical aspects of the socio-economics of climate change and related methodologies for use and application by parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other interested entities;

4. Requests the Executive Director to actively disseminate the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Third Assessment Report when it is published with a view to raising awareness among civil society and policy makers on the issue of climate change and the choice of policy options available to respond to climate change;

5. Urges Governments to continue to support the activities of the Panel and to contribute to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Trust Fund;

6. Also requests the Panel to report, through its Chair, to the Governing Council at its twenty-second session on the progress of its activities.

[15/] Ibid., subsection 2.

C. Global Climate Observing System

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 16/41 IV of 31 May 1991 on the World Climate Programme, and in particular section IV, paragraph 2 (e) on the creation of the Global Climate Observing System,

Noting decision 5/CP.5 of 4 November 1999 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on research and systematic observation, 16/

Recognizing the critical significance of observations in climate change detection and therefore its significance in determining the timing and location of climate change impacts,

1. Requests the Executive Director to continue to support, within available resources, the activities of the joint planning office of the Global Climate Observing System in facilitating the participation of experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the activities of the Global Climate Observing System;

2. Urges Governments to address deficiencies in the climate observing networks and invites them in consultation with the Global Climate Observing System secretariat to bring forward any capacity-building needs to the attention of the Framework Convention on Climate Change as called for in paragraph 6 of decision 5/CP.5 of the Framework Convention on Climate Change.

D. Programmatic support to atmosphere-related conventions

The Governing Council,

Recalling Governing Council decisions concerning programmatic support to the multilateral environmental conventions in the field of atmosphere, including decisions 15/30 of 25 May 1989 and 16/40 of 31 May 1991 concerning the protection of the ozone layer, decision 18/20 of 26 May 1995 concerning climate change and decision 20/18 of 4 February 1999, concerning environmental conventions,

Considering the report of the Executive Director on the United Nations Environment Programme's programmatic support to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, 14/

Noting in particular the United Nations Environment Programme activities in support of: the Global Climate Observing System, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Climate Agenda which in part supports the work of the Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Welcoming the programmatic activities undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme in support of the Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol,

Cognizant of the need to enhance synergies and interlinkages among multilateral environmental conventions and the functions of the United Nations Environment Programme Division of Environmental Conventions in addressing such interlinkages and synergies,

Noting further the United Nations Environment Programme activities on the clearing-house function related to information on ozone layer and its depletion, and activities related to phasing-out of ozone depleting substances, institutional strengthening in developing countries and the strengthening and management of regional networks under the OzonAction programme,

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16/ Report of the Conference of the Parties on its fifth session, held at Bonn from 25 October to 5 November 1999, part two: action taken by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth session (FCCC/CP/1999/6/Add.1).

Cognizant of the fact that recent scientific observations of the ozone layer over the South and North Poles seem to suggest that the expected improvement trend in the state of the ozone layer is not materializing,

1. Urges the Executive Director, within available resources, to continue programmatic activities in support of the Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol, in particular to encourage the enhancement of synergies between these instruments;

2. Calls upon the Executive Director to continue to liaise with relevant United Nations agencies, and international organizations with a view to addressing the issue of systematic observations and assessment of the ozone layer.

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21/10. The Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on implementation of the Global Programme of Action, 12/

Acknowledging the consideration given to implementation of the Global Programme of Action by the United Nations General Assembly Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and Law of the Sea,

Recognizing the important implications of not addressing land-based activities with respect to human health, poverty alleviation and food security,

Recognizing that sound environmental management, including scientific evaluation has major implications for the protection of human health and socio-economic well-being,

Expressing its serious concern that the economic costs to society are enormous and are escalating by the slow action taken to control land-based activities,

Expressing further its concern that the productive capacity and ecological services of the marine environment, including estuaries and near-shore coastal waters, are increasingly degraded mainly by pollution from sewage, nutrients, sediment mobilization and by physical alteration and destruction of habitats,

Further recognizing the need to mainstream the objectives of the Global Programme of Action into appropriate programmes and activities at the local, national, regional and global levels,

Further recognizing that in order to effectively implement the Global Programme of Action appropriate actions must be taken at the level of river basins draining into coastal zones,

Recognizing the need to educate decision makers, environmental managers, the private sector and the public about the necessity of implementing the Global Programme of Action,

Recalling its decision 19/14 A of 7 February 1997 to strengthen the regional seas programme as a main mechanism to facilitate implementation of the Global Programme of Action,

Expressing its further concern over the discrepancy between the current and desirable level of participation by United Nations agencies and programmes and international financing institutions in activities related to implementation of the Global Programme of Action,

12/ UNEP/GC.21/2 and INF/9.

1. Requests the Executive Director to organize the first intergovernmental review meeting on the status of the implementation of the Global Programme of Action in November 2001 with participation of Governments, international governmental and non-governmental organizations, international and regional financing institutions, private sector and other stakeholders and major groups, paying due attention to the use of innovative financial mechanisms for implementing the Global Programme of Action and to promote the involvement of Governments, the private sector, international financial institutions and the civic society in addressing this issue;

2. Encourages Governments to implement the Global Programme of Action through the regional seas programmes and, where applicable, through regional agreements;

3. Notes with appreciation the work of the United Nations Environment Programme in giving new momentum to the implementation of the Global Programme of Action, in particular in the preparations for the first intergovernmental review meeting on the progress in implementing the Programme of Action, the development of the clearing-house mechanism and work in addressing sewage as a major land-based pollutant;

4. Urges Governments to strengthen their efforts in implementing the Global Programme of Action and to consider, as called for in United Nations General Assembly resolution 55/34 A of 20 November 2000, actively contributing to the first intergovernmental review meeting on implementation of the Programme of Action;

5. Urges Governments to ensure that relevant United Nations agencies and organizations incorporate the implementation of the Global Programme of Action in their work programmes;

6. Urges Governments to involve international financing institutions, non-governmental organizations, private sector and other stakeholders and major groups, through promoting partnerships, in efforts to implement the Global Programme of Action;

7. Notes with appreciation the proactive role of the Global Environment Facility in facilitating the implementation of the Global Programme of Action and encourages it to continue supporting relevant projects;

8. Encourages the United Nations Environment Programme to further develop, through the Global Resources Information Database, cooperative programmes to share environmental data through a web-based geographic information system;

9. Urges United Nations agencies and programmes to accord high priority to projects to implement the Global Programme of Action;

10. Urges international financing institutions, including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the regional development banks, to accord high priority to projects to implement the Global Programme of Action;

11. Requests the Executive Director to pay due attention in the work programme of the United Nations Environment Programme to activities aimed at addressing the negative effects of sewage, physical alteration and destruction of habitats, nutrients and sediment mobilization on the marine, coastal and associated freshwater environment;

12. Requests the Executive Director to submit a progress report on activities of the United Nations Environment Programme as secretariat of the Global Programme of Action to the Governing Council at its twenty-second session;

13. Urges Governments and international organizations in a position to do so to contribute to the Trust Fund for the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities.

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21/11. Water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 19/14 D of 7 February 1997, SS.V/4 of 22 May 1998, 20/25 of 5 February and SS.VI/2 of 31 May 2000,

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on the work of the United Nations Environment Programme on water issues related to Governing Council decisions 20/25 and SS.VI/2;[18/]

2. Accepts in its present form the water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme [19/] which enhances the focus of the work of the United Nations Environment Programme on the environmental aspects of sustainable development and integrated management of water in accordance with national needs and subject to Governments' requests;

3. Expresses its appreciation to the Executive Director for the measures taken to implement Governing Council decisions 20/25 and SS.VI/2;

4. Also expresses its appreciation to the Executive Director for the progress reports submitted to the Committee for Permanent Representatives, respectively on: the Global International Waters Assessment; the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities; the regional seas conventions; and the water activities of the International Environmental Technology Centre;

5. Further expresses its appreciation for the establishment of an expert group on exchange of information on best practices in the freshwater management;

6. Decides that the United Nations Environment Programme, within its mandate, and taking into account national priorities, should place a high priority on the identification of expertise and knowledge available in countries relating to the environmental aspects of water quality, and facilitate the establishment of partnerships between those countries and countries in need of that expertise and knowledge and the promotion of intergovernmental collaboration upon requests of the Governments concerned;

7. Requests the Executive Director to enhance, through the International Environmental Technology Centre, the transfer of environmentally sound technologies for water management, with due attention to the use of local technologies, the identification and analysis of the costs, effectiveness and strengths and limitations of alternative technologies, and awareness-raising initiatives on technology development and transfer in the water sector;

8. Also requests the Executive Director to intensify collaborative activities with Governments, upon request, as well as with other organizations and agencies in furtherance of the implementation of the water policy and strategy;

18/ UNEP/GC.21/INF/21.

19/ UNEP/GC.21/2/Add.1.

9. Also requests the Executive Director to take the necessary measures in furtherance of the continued implementation of the water policy and strategy, consistent with the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme and the priorities outlined in Governing Council decisions at its respective sessions and in line with the relevant chapters of Agenda 21; 6/

10. Also requests the Executive Director to ensure the review of the water policy and strategy at the twenty-second session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum in 2003;

11. Also requests the Executive Director to identify key policy issues for the environmental aspects of water, arising from the activities undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme in line with the decisions of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme [20]/ and the Malmö Ministerial Declaration 2/ and the outcome of the comprehensive review of the implementation of Agenda 21, and to propose policy options to the Governing Council at its twenty-second session/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;

12. Also requests the Executive Director to ensure that the United Nations Environment Programme, when undertaking its activities related to the environmental aspects of water, takes into account the work carried out by other United Nations agencies and international organizations as well as by national Governments to avoid duplication;

13. Further requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council, at its twenty-second session, on the progress in the implementation of the present decision and in related environmental issues.

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21/12. Coral reefs

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 18/33 of 26 May 1995, 19/15 of 7 February 1997 and 20/21 of 4 February 1999,

Recalling that several members of the Governing Council, international agencies including the United Nations Environment Programme, non-governmental organizations and scientific bodies are partners of the International Coral Reef Initiative which in 1995 developed the Call to Action, the Framework for Action to address the decline in the world's reefs and in 1998 the Renewed Call to Action,

Noting the concern and apprehension of the partners of the International Coral Reef Initiative that the extensive evidence that coral reef ecosystems continue to be damaged or severely degraded as the result of both direct human activities and global climate change as witnessed by the increased global incidence of episodes of "coral bleaching" since its twentieth session,

1. Welcomes the Executive Director's circulation of the Renewed Call to Action statement of the International Coral Reef Initiative;

2. Notes with satisfaction the United Nations Environment Programme's increased commitment to coral reef related activities, through the establishment of a new United Nations Environment Programme Coral Reef Unit, its continuing role in the International Coral Reef Initiative and its coordinating role in the International Coral Reef Action Network;

3. Supports the United Nations Environment Programme's continued participation and existing cooperation in the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network to implement the global coral reef monitoring

[20]/ Governing Council decision 19/1, annex.

network to support conservation and sustainable use of coral reef ecosystems, especially in light of the recently released report which presents the prospect that 60 per cent of the world's coral reefs could be lost by 2030;

4. Underscores the need to strengthen the role of the regional seas conventions and action plans as partners for implementing the International Coral Reef Initiative Framework for Action, including the action phase of the International Coral Reef Action Network;

5. Requests the Executive Director to take appropriate action to ensure that each of the regional seas programmes work as partners in the International Coral Reef Initiative to prepare and implement regional or subregional programmes, in the area of conservation and sustainable use of coral reefs;

6. Requests the Executive Director to increase existing collaborative efforts between the United Nations Environment Programme's ongoing coral-related activities and multilateral environmental conventions, especially with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat and the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage;

7. Requests the Executive Director to develop collaborative approaches with United Nations agencies including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to address the economic, social and environmental urgency of achieving sustainability in the management and use of coral reefs;

8. Requests the Executive Director to further increase fund raising efforts to support coral reef related activities and to work with partners including the International Coral Reef Initiative to maximize the contribution of existing and potential new funding mechanisms to address the urgent needs of conservation and sustainable use of coral reefs;

9. Requests the Executive Director to submit a progress report on the conservation and sustainable use of coral reefs to the Governing Council at its twenty-second session.

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21/13. Global assessment of the state of the marine environment

The Governing Council,

Noting Commission on Sustainable Development decision 7/1, [21]/

Also noting paragraph 5 of the Malmö Ministerial Declaration, 2/ as well as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, in particular Part XII, and the work programme of marine and coastal biodiversity under the Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity of the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Noting further the ongoing work aimed at improving the knowledge base on the state of the marine environment, including activities being carried out within the framework of the Global International Waters Assessment, the Global Ocean Observing System and the United Nations Atlas of the Oceans,

1. Notes the reports published by the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection entitled "A sea of troubles" and "Protecting the oceans from land-based activities — Land-based sources and activities affecting the quality and uses of the marine, coastal and associated freshwater environment";

21/ Commission on Sustainable Development – report on the seventh session (E/1999/29).

2. Recognizes that the report "A sea of troubles" identifies "ineffective communication between scientists and government policy makers and the public alike" as one of the reasons for the lack of commitment and the inability of the international community to address and solve the environmental problems of the seas in a comprehensive way;

3. Requests the Executive Director to take an active part in implementing General Assembly resolution 54/33 of 24 November 1999 and General Assembly resolution 55/7 of 30 October 2000 by participating in the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, an annual review and evaluation of developments relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea;

4. Requests the Executive Director, in cooperation with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other appropriate United Nations agencies, the secretariat of the Convention of Biological Diversity and in consultation with the regional seas programmes to explore the feasibility of establishing a regular process for the assessment of the state of the marine environment, with active involvement by governments and regional agreements, building on ongoing assessment programmes;

5. Requests the Executive Director to present the matter to the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea at its next session in May 2001;

6. Also requests the Executive Director to submit a progress report on this issue to it at its twenty-second session.

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21/14. Trade and environment

The Governing Council,

Recalling chapter 2 of Agenda 21, 6/ its decision 20/29 of 4 February 1999 and the Malmö Ministerial Declaration, 2/

Recalling also paragraph 9 of the Malmö Ministerial Declaration and the recommendation contained therein, to encourage a balanced and integrated approach to trade and environmental policies in pursuit of sustainable development, in accordance with the decision of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eighth session,

Recalling in particular paragraph 5 of decision 8/6 of the Commission on Sustainable Development 22/ on economic growth, trade and investment, which identified priority areas for future work to include the following:

(a) Promoting sustainable development through trade and economic growth;

(b) Making trade and environmental policies mutually supportive;

(c) Promoting sustainable development through investment;

(d) Strengthening institutional cooperation, capacity-building and promoting partnerships.

Taking note of the actions taken by the Executive Director in the field of trade and environment, including the ongoing collaboration between the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,

22/ Commission on Sustainable Development – report of the eighth session (E/2000/29).

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the state of the global environment and contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to addressing the environmental challenges, [23]/

1. Reiterates the need for a balanced and integrated approach to trade and environmental policies in pursuit of sustainable development in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions;

2. Stresses that it is necessary that the environmental perspective should be taken into account in both the design and the assessment of macro-economic policy-making, as well as practices of government and multilateral lending and credit institutions such as export credit agencies, as highlighted in the Malmö Ministerial Declaration;

3. Requests the Executive Director to further strengthen the secretariat in order for it to assist countries, particularly developing countries and countries with economies in transition to enhance their capacities to develop and implement mutually supportive trade and environmental policies. Such assistance should be geared to reflect the socio-economic and development priorities, as well as the needs and capacities of individual countries;

4. Agrees that the Executive Director should pursue further actions, as appropriate, related to trade and environment, in close cooperation with the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, including the following:

(a) To develop national capacities to assess the environmental effects of trade;

(b) To study the effectiveness of market-based incentives in achieving the objectives of multilateral environmental agreements including those agreements for which the United Nations Environment Programme provides the secretariat;

(c) To continue to promote understanding, dialogue and the dissemination of information about multilateral environmental agreements, including any trade measures, inter alia, to develop capacity to ensure that trade and environmental policies are mutually supportive;

5. Requests also the Executive Director to further promote, including through international cooperation, the national development and application of environmental impact assessment, environmental valuation, methodologies for natural resource accounting and relevant economic instruments in accordance with the socio-economic and development priorities of individual countries;

6. Requests the Executive Director, to continue to collaborate with the private sector including the financial services sector, with a view to enhancing their contribution to the achievement of sustainable development through the development of cleaner and more resource-efficient technologies for a life cycle economy and efforts to facilitate the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries;

7. Requests the Executive Director to periodically consult and brief Governments, including through the Committee of Permanent Representatives, on the United Nations Environment Programme's work identified in this decision and report to the next session of the Governing Council in this regard.

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[23]/ UNEP/GC.21/2.

21/15. Support to Africa

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 20/27 of 5 February 1999 on support to Africa,

Noting recent state-of-the-environment reports, such as the Global Environment Outlook report of the United Nations Environment Programme on the escalating and emerging environmental problems in Africa,

Also concerned about the increasing number of emerging and crisis situations in the world, particularly in Africa as a result of global environmental changes with adverse social, cultural and economic effects,

Welcoming the commendable efforts by the United Nations Environment Programme in the implementation of Governing Council decision 20/27 on support to Africa;

Stressing the importance of a coherent and timely implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, at all levels, including the general provisions and obligations of affected and developed countries,

1. Calls upon all Governments, particularly developed countries and the donor community, to enhance their financial support to the Global Mechanism to enable it to promote the effective implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification;

2. Requests the Executive Director to develop and promote understanding of the linkages between poverty and the environment, means of making people's livelihoods more productive and environmentally sustainable, and appropriate policy options for Governments, a significant priority which should be to assist governments in integrating environment in central social and economic processes, including the poverty reduction strategies and the comprehensive development frameworks;

3. Requests the Executive Director to continue to support the implementation of Governing Council decision 20/27 on support to Africa, particularly, within the framework of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment as well as other African regional and subregional organizations;

4. Also requests the Executive Director to assist African countries in the preparations for the seventh Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and for the World Summit on Sustainable Development [24/] in order to ensure Africa's perspectives are incorporated in the inputs and outputs of these two meetings and in order to strengthen the capacity of African negotiators for these two events by providing financial support for the regional meetings, within available resources;

5. Calls on donor countries, international financial institutions and the United Nations system, including the United Nations Environment Programme within its available resources, to provide financial support and expertise towards the successful organization of the two events;

6. Further requests the Executive Director to support actions that would enhance the implementation of the 1968 African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, the 1981 Abidjan Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region, the 1985 Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region and the 1991 Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa;

24/ General Assembly resolution 55/199 of 20 December 2000, para. 2.

7. Takes note of the progress made by the Executive Director in the revitalization of the Nairobi and Abidjan conventions;

8. Further requests the Executive Director to strengthen the Nairobi and Abidjan conventions to make them more effective;

9. Further requests the Executive Director to report on the progress made and the results achieved in this regard to the Committee of Permanent Representatives and the next session of the Governing Council.

10th meeting
9 February 2001

21/16. Environmental situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions on the environmental situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including decision 20/2 of February 1999,

Reaffirming the General Assembly resolution 55/209 of 22 December 2000 on the permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including East Jerusalem over their natural resources,

Gravely concerned by the recent alarming reports on the violations of the environment in the Occupied Palestinian Territories,

1. Requests the Executive Director to assess the environmental repercussions of the above mentioned recent violations;

2. Requests the Executive Director to assist the Palestinian Authority in its efforts to address the urgent environmental challenges;

3. Also requests the Executive Director to prepare the comprehensive report requested in decision 20/2 on the environmental situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories including the findings of the above mentioned assessment and present the report to the Committee of Permanent Representatives as soon as possible and through it to the Governing Council at its seventh special session to be held in 2002.

10th meeting
9 February 2001

21/17. Further improvement of environmental emergency prevention, preparedness, assessment, response and mitigation

The Governing Council,

Recalling the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, 20/

Recalling that the Malmö Ministerial Declaration 2/ underscored increasing environmental emergencies as one of the major environmental challenges of the twenty-first century,

Acknowledging the value that assessment and early warning, preparedness, response and mitigation have in ultimately preventing and reducing the impact of environmental emergencies,

Noting with deep concern — as the recent oil spill in the region of the Galapagos islands which has heightened the awareness of the potential for the destruction of an exceptional and invaluable ecosystem has shown — that accidents and man-made disasters have continued, despite serious efforts by the international community,

Taking note that the United Nations Environment Programme's programme of work and its Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law includes the task of addressing the issue of liability for environmental damage,

Noting that while there are no rules at present governing non-economic damage to the global environment, there are efforts within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity, to examine possibilities of addressing this issue, but that it might be desirable to address non-economic environmental damage in a wider context,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on further improvement of environmental emergency prevention, preparedness, assessment, response and mitigation,[25]/

1. Welcomes its decision 20/8 of 5 February 1999 and the important role the United Nations Environment Programme plays globally in the areas of emergency prevention, preparedness, assessment, response and mitigation;

2. Welcomes the Strategic Framework on Emergency Prevention, Preparedness, Assessment, Response and Mitigation and requests the Executive Director to establish a process for comments on the Strategic Framework and thereafter to support its implementation within the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme;

3. Encourages the Executive Director to strengthen the capacity of the secretariat in environmental emergencies within the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme;

4. Endorses the constructive contribution by the United Nations Environment Programme under the coordination of the Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to enhance the ability of the United Nations to assist countries, particularly developing countries, affected by environmental emergencies;

5. Requests the Executive Director to enhance the long-term strategic cooperation with the Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, including the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, through the joint United Nations Environment Programme/Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Environment Unit;

6. Invites Governments and relevant United Nations agencies and bodies, other international organizations and non-governmental organizations to continue to collaborate with the United Nations Environment Programme in its efforts to provide assistance to countries, particularly developing countries, in responding to and prevention and reduction of environmental emergencies;

7. Calls on Governments to develop and strengthen national legal and institutional arrangements for environmental emergency management, so as to enable Governments to respond to environmental emergencies in an effective manner;

8. Urges Governments and international organizations in a position to do so to contribute to the Trust Fund for Environmental Emergencies;

9. Requests the Executive Director to bring forward an analysis of the causes and long-term environmental effects of emergencies it has worked on and the possible policy implications for national governments and the international community for consideration of the Governing Council at its twenty-second session;

25/ UNEP/GC.21/3/Add.1.

10. Urges States that have not yet signed, ratified or acceded to the existing legal instruments and conventions dealing with environmental emergency prevention, preparedness, assessment, response and mitigation to do so expeditiously and to proceed with their implementation;

11. Requests the Executive Director to strengthen the cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant international organizations in order to assess whether gaps exist in the present regime for the protection of the environment from accidents and man-made disasters;

12. Further requests the Executive Director to support the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in their efforts to consider the issue of non-economic environmental harm, notably by encouraging and promoting cooperation with other relevant international organizations and institutions.

10th meeting
9 February 2001

21/18. Implementation of the Malmö Ministerial Declaration

The Governing Council,

Recalling the Malmö Ministerial Declaration 2/ as the embodiment of a strong and vibrant international consensus on major environmental challenges faced in the twenty-first century and as a holistic strategy to address them,

Recalling also the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme 20/ and the United Nations Millennium Declaration, [26]/

Noting General Assembly resolution 55/200 of 20 December 2000 by which the General Assembly took note with appreciation of the Malmö Ministerial Declaration as one of the contributions to the Millennium Summit and to the preparation of the ten-year review of progress achieved in the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development as well as the environment-related aspects of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, and conscious of the responsibilities of the United Nations Environment Programme as the leading global environment authority,

Stressing that the Malmö Ministerial Declaration constitutes a significant contribution to the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

Highlighting the need to close the gap between the commitments made and action taken in relation to sustainable development as identified by the Malmö Ministerial Declaration,

Conscious that the root causes of global environmental degradation are embedded in social and economic problems such as pervasive poverty, unsustainable production and consumption patterns, inequity in distribution of wealth and the debt burden,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Executive Director concerning the implementation of the Malmö Ministerial Declaration, [27]/

1. Stresses its commitment to comprehensive implementation of the Malmö Ministerial Declaration;

2. Urges Governments to translate the commitments made in the Malmö Ministerial Declaration into concrete action at the national, regional and global levels;

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[26]/ General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000.

[27]/ UNEP/GC.21/3.

3. Encourages the civil society, the private sector and other major groups to actively contribute to the full implementation of the Malmö Ministerial Declaration;

4. Decides to transmit, through the President of the Governing Council, the Malmö Ministerial Declaration as well as the present decision to other intergovernmental bodies and conferences in the United Nations system, including international financial institutions and invite these bodies and conferences to promote its implementation;

5. Requests the Executive Director to transmit the Malmö Ministerial Declaration as well as the present decision to all relevant United Nations bodies, programmes and agencies to promote its implementation;

6. Invites the Commission on Sustainable Development to consider the integration of the commitments contained in the Malmö Ministerial Declaration into its work, especially in preparation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

7. Requests the Executive Director to take further steps in the implementation of the Malmö Ministerial Declaration as it relates to the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, including coordination within the United Nations system through, inter alia, the Environmental Management Group;

8. Requests the Executive Director to monitor the implementation of the Malmö Ministerial Declaration and to report thereon to the Committee of Permanent Representatives as well as to the Governing Council at its next session.

10th meeting
9 February 2001

21/19. The role of civil society

The Governing Council,

Recalling resolution 2997(XXVII) of 15 December 1972 of the General Assembly, in particular its section IV, paragraph 5, as well as chapter 28 of Agenda 21, 6/

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration and General Assembly resolution 55/162 of 14 December 2000 concerning the follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit,

Also recalling its decision 18/4 of 26 May 1995, which called for the development of a policy framework and appropriate mechanisms for working with the civil society, private sector and other major groups and a subsequent policy of the United Nations Environment Programme concerning non-governmental organizations and other major groups, issued on 30 October 1996,

Further recalling the rules of procedure of the Governing Council, in particular rule 69, which allows "international non-governmental organizations having an interest in the field of the environment to sit as observers at public meetings of the Governing Council and its subsidiary bodies",

Stressing paragraph 14 of the Malmö Ministerial Declaration, 2/

Taking note with appreciation of the work of the United Nations Environment Programme with respect to the civil society, private sector and other major groups,

Also taking note of the civil society statement presented during the twenty-first session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;

Aiming at further developing the relationship between the civil society, private sector and other major groups and the United Nations Environment Programme and its governing bodies,

1. Requests the Executive Director to further the consultative process, including at the regional level, with Governments, the civil society, private sector and other major groups on ways and means to enhance the active engagement and participation of civil society in the work of the United Nations Environment Programme;

2. Also requests the Executive Director to submit, before the end of 2001, a report on the outcome of these consultations and a draft strategy for the active engagement of the civil society, private sector and other major groups in the work of the United Nations Environment programme, to the Committee of Permanent Representatives for its consideration and subsequently to submit the report and the draft strategy to the Governing Council at its seventh special session in 2002;

3. Decides to include an agenda item entitled "Strengthening the role of the civil society, private sector and other major groups in the work of the United Nations Environment Programme" in the provisional agenda of the seventh special session of the Governing Council.

10th meeting
9 February 2001

21/20. Governance of the United Nations Environment Programme and implementation of General Assembly resolution 53/242

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 19/32 of 4 April 1997 and 20/17 of 5 February 1999 as well as General Assembly resolutions 53/242 of 28 July 1999, 55/162 of 14 December 2000, 55/198 of 20 December 2000, 55/199 of 20 December 2000 and 55/200 of 20 December 2000,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 55/200, by which the General Assembly, inter alia, underscored the need for sufficient financial resources, on a stable and predictable basis, to ensure the full implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, in particular with a view to ensuring its strong involvement in the preparatory process for the ten-year review of progress achieved in the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

I

Governance of the United Nations Environment Programme, including governance aspects of General Assembly resolution 53/242

1. Resolves to continue strengthening the role of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum as the policy organ of the United Nations Environment Programme, the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves an authoritative advocate for the global environment;

2. Invites the regional ministerial environment forums to provide the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum with their respective views on policy issues in the field of the environment, and to consider the outcome of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, thereby ensuring interaction between the two;

3. Decides, subject to the availability of an offer from a host country, to hold its sessions in alternate years in the United Nations regions, where possible, on a rotational basis, in keeping with the spirit of its decision 20/17 of 5 February 1999;

4. Calls upon Governments in a position to do so to provide financial resources to facilitate participation of environment ministers and other officials from developing countries and countries with economies in transition in all meetings of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;

5. Decides, following the successful completion by the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials of the role entrusted to it in Governing Council decision 19/32 of 4 April 1997 on the governance of the United Nations Environment Programme, and with appreciation for its work, to discontinue the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials;

6. Decides, that the proceedings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives shall be conducted in all official languages following the installation of full interpretation services in Nairobi;

7. Requests the Executive Director to provide all documentation for a session of the Governing Council to the Committee of Permanent Representatives eight weeks in advance of the session and that the Committee endeavour to finish its work four weeks prior to the actual Governing Council session;

8. Requests the Executive Director to notify designated focal points for the United Nations Environment Programme of upcoming meetings and, as practical, of the invitees;

II

Implementation of other aspects of General Assembly resolution 53/242

1. Welcomes the recent commencement of the work of the Environmental Management Group of the United Nations;

2. Invites the Environmental Management Group to publish a benchmark report on progress in its work at a regular interval to be agreed upon by the Group;

3. Urges the Secretary-General to take measures to secure adequate human and financial resources required for the proper functioning of the secretariat of the Environmental Management Group;

4. Further invites Governments in a position to do so to contribute in support of the functioning of the Environmental Management Group and its secretariat;

5. Recalls the authority and mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme to promote the integration of the environmental aspects of sustainable development into the work of the United Nations system, and emphasizes the importance of practical and efficient execution of this authority;

6. Invites, in this context, the Executive Director to approach relevant organizations within the United Nations system with the proposal to make a joint review of their roles in the environment area, aiming at identifying and analysing the need for strengthened coordination and cooperation, in order to avoid unnecessary duplication;

7. Encourages the Executive Director to strengthen the United Nations Environment Programme's collaboration with the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in areas of mutual interest through, inter alia, joint projects and complementary programmes of action;

8. Requests the Executive Director to continue efforts to enhance policy coherence and synergy among international legal instruments related to environment and sustainable development at both inter-agency and intergovernmental levels;

9. Urges the Secretary-General to provide the necessary resources from the regular budget of the United Nations to the United Nations Environment Programme for the biennium 2002-2003, in accordance with current budgetary practices, and to consider other ways of lending support to the strengthening of the United Nations Environment Programme, in view of preparations for and the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development; 24/

10. Calls upon the Executive Director to promote further international action to enhance synergy between the programmes of the United Nations Environment Programme and multilateral environmental conventions, with full respect for the status of the secretariats of the conventions and the autonomous decision-making prerogatives of the conferences of the parties to the conventions concerned, including streamlining of reporting, capacity-building and other actions aimed at the implementation of Agenda 21; 6/

11. Encourages conferences of parties to the multilateral environmental conventions to involve, as appropriate, the Environmental Management Group in enhancing complementarities among them while respecting their autonomous nature;

12. Supports the enhancement that has taken place of the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as an implementing agency of Global Environment Facility in securing Facility funding for the programme priorities of those multilateral environment conventions for which the Facility serves as a financing mechanism;

13. Encourages the Executive Director to take further steps to promote the engagement of the private sector in addressing environmental challenges, inter alia through the promotion of environmental reporting, voluntary codes of conduct, cleaner production and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies;

14. Notes with appreciation the establishment of the Civil Society and Non-governmental Organizations Unit within the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme;

15. Calls for the prompt strengthening of the capacity and capability of the United Nations Environment Programme in the areas of information, the monitoring and assessment of global and regional environmental trends and early warning information on threats, so as to catalyse and promote international cooperation and action in these areas;

16. Requests the Executive Director to ensure that capacity building and technical assistance, in particular with respect to institutional strengthening in developing countries, as well as research and scientific studies in the field of environment must remain important components of the work programme of the United Nations Environment Programme, and also stresses in this regard the need for adequate financial resources;

17. Requests the Executive Director to report to it at its twenty-second session on the implementation of the present decision.

10th meeting
9 February 2001

21/21. International environmental governance

The Governing Council,

Underlining the importance of the World Summit on Sustainable Development 24/ to be held in 2002 to review the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to reinvigorate the global commitment to sustainable development and, as a critical opportunity to advance international cooperation for sustainable development on the basis of concrete commitments at the highest level,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 55/200 of 20 December 2000 in which the Assembly stressed the important role that the United Nations Environment Programme has to play in the ten-year review of progress achieved in the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Recalling the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, 20/ in which the role of the United Nations Environment Programme is confirmed as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, that promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and that serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment,

Welcoming efforts already made to realize the objectives of the Nairobi Declaration, as well as the implementation of General Assembly resolution 53/242 of 28 July 1999 and the subsequent establishment of the Global Ministerial Environment Forum, the Environmental Management Group and the strengthening of the United Nations Office at Nairobi,

Recognizing that these reforms constitute first steps in a process of necessary streamlining and strengthening of the system of international environmental governance including in the context of sustainable development with the objective of enhancing policy coherence and implementation,

Emphasizing that stable, predictable and adequate funding is a prerequisite for improved governance and should constitute a central aspect of deliberations on improving international environmental governance,

Recalling the recommendations from the Malmö Ministerial Declaration 2/ that the 2002 World Summit should review the requirements for a greatly strengthened institutional structure for international environmental governance based on an assessment of future needs for an institutional architecture that has the capacity to effectively address wide-ranging environmental threats in a globalizing world, and that United Nations Environment Programme's role in this regard should be strengthened and its financial base broadened and made more predictable,

1. Calls upon the United Nations Environment Programme and Member Governments of the United Nations and its specialized agencies to intensify efforts to implement General Assembly resolution 53/242 as a basis for further institutional strengthening;

2. Decides to establish an open-ended intergovernmental group of ministers or their representatives, with the Executive Director as an ex-officio member, to undertake a comprehensive policy-oriented assessment of existing institutional weaknesses as well as future needs and options for strengthened international environmental governance, including the financing of the United Nations Environment Programme, with a view to presenting a report containing analysis and options to the next session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;

3. Requests the Committee of Permanent Representatives as the subsidiary body of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum to provide its due contribution to this process in an expeditious manner;

4. Requests the Executive Director, in consultation with Governments to review the state of international environmental governance and elaborate a report to be submitted to the intergovernmental group at its first meeting;

5. Decides that the process should benefit from incorporating the views and perspectives of other United Nations entities, international financial institutions, expert institutions, major groups, and individuals outside the United Nations system;

6. Decides that the next session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum should undertake in depth discussion of the report with a view to providing its input on future requirements of international environmental governance in the broader context of multilateral efforts for sustainable development to the tenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory body for the World Summit on Sustainable Development at its meeting at the Ministerial level in May 2002 as a contribution to the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

7. Requests the President of the Governing Council to inform the Commission on Sustainable Development, at its first session as the preparatory body of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, of this decision of the Council and of the views expressed by Ministers of the Environment on international environmental governance at this session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;

8. Requests the Executive Director to seek additional financial resources from governments in a position to contribute to supporting this process in particular to facilitate the participation of developing country representatives.

10th meeting
9 February 2001

21/22. Engagement and involvement of young people in the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Recalling the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond,[28]/ especially paragraphs 64-72, which stress the importance of engaging and supporting youth in environmental work, and paragraphs 104-107, emphasizing the full and effective participation of youth in the life of society and decision-making,

Further recalling chapter 25 of Agenda 21, which states inter alia that "the involvement of today's youth in environment and development decision-making and in the implementation of programmes is critical to the long-term success of Agenda 21", 6/

Noting with appreciation the ongoing work of the United Nations Environment Programme with young people, involving the Global 500 Youth Environmental Award, Global Youth Forums, the Global Youth Retreat, the Youth Advisory Council, the International Children's Conference on the Environment, promotional activities for children, global networks for children and youth and publications for children and youth, and the need to further enhance young people's involvement,

1. Requests the Executive Director to develop a long-term strategy on how the United Nations Environment Programme intends to engage and involve young people worldwide in environmental issues and debates;

2. Decides to discuss at its twenty-second session ways of engaging and involving young people in the work of the United Nations Environment Programme;

3. Further requests the Executive Director to declare the engagement and involvement of young people a priority by giving consideration to efforts to:

(a) Encourage and support the active and consistent participation of young people in the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme;

28/ General Assembly resolution 50/81, annex, of 14 December 1995.

(b) Facilitate and support young people's involvement in the World Summit on Sustainable Development, 24/ and in the preparations for the Summit;

(c) Initiate and support, in partnership with youth environmental organizations and networks, capacity-building projects for youth leaders, which should include the strengthening of the Youth Advisory Council, training and exchange programmes, and work to increase the number of and access to environmental information materials and publications for young people;

(d) Create opportunities for young people to gain experience and contribute inputs to the work of the United Nations Environment Programme through internships;

4. Invites the Executive Director to seek extrabudgetary resources to facilitate the engagement and involvement of young people.

10th meeting
9 February 2001

21/23. The Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the First Decade of the Twenty-first Century

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 20/3 of 3 February 1999,

Recalling the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme in the field of the environment as reflected in the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, 20/ the Malmö Ministerial Declaration, 2/ and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 adopted by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session, 13/

Having considered the outcome of the Meeting of Senior Government Officials Expert in Environmental Law to Prepare a Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the First Decade of the Twenty-first Century, held in Nairobi from 23 to 27 October 2000,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the work of the United Nations Environment Programme, as described in the meeting document on implementation of the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the 1990s; 29/

2. Adopts the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the First Decade of the Twenty-first Century, as set out in annex I to the report of the Meeting of Senior Government Officials Expert in Environmental Law to Prepare a Programme of Work for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the First Decade of the Twenty-first Century, as the broad strategy for the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme in the field of environmental law for the first decade of the twenty-first century;

3. Requests the Executive Director to implement the Programme, within available resources, through the programmes of work of the United Nations Environment Programme and in close collaboration with States, conferences of the parties and secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements, other international organizations, non-State actors and persons;

29/ UNEP/Env.Law/4/3.

4. Decides to review the implementation of the Programme not later than at its regular session in 2005.

10th meeting
9 February 2001

21/24. Policy and advisory services in key areas of institution-building

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 20/6 of 5 February 1999 and decision 20/4 of 4 February 1999,

Recalling also Rio principle 10 12/ and paragraph 16 of the Malmö Ministerial Declaration, 2/

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on policy and advisory services of the United Nations Environment Programme in key areas of institution-building, 30/

1. Takes note with appreciation of the action taken by the Executive Director to provide policy and advisory services in key areas of institution-building, particularly with regard to support for developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

2. Expresses its gratitude to the donors for their support and contribution to the activities on policy and advisory services in key areas of institution-building;

3. Requests the Executive Director to further strengthen its activities in providing technical, legal and policy advice to Governments and regional and subregional institutions dealing with environmental matters;

4. Requests the Executive Director to continue to undertake appropriate actions designed to improve public access to information on environmental matters and environmental policy instruments and to promote the development of relevant skills and capacity of the key stakeholders and partners;

5. Requests the Executive Director to present a report on international legal instruments reflecting provisions contained in principle 10, including an assessment and evaluation of their actual coverage vis-à-vis principle 10. The report should be presented as a contribution to the general review of Agenda 21 in the spring of 2002 as well as to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum in 2002;

6. Urges Governments to take steps to enhance access to environmental information held by public authorities and to encourage participation by all relevant sectors of society in the decision-making process in environmental matters, in accordance with relevant legislation or arrangements, bearing in mind the crucial role which it plays in institution-building for environmental protection and sustainable development;

7. Further urges Governments to take measures to establish, where appropriate, at the national and regional levels, judicial and/or administrative procedures for legal redress and remedy for actions effecting the environment that may be unlawful or infringe on rights under the law.

10th meeting
9 February 2001

30/ UNEP/GC.21/4 and INF/15.

21/25. Participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the work of the Global Environment Facility

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the work of the Global Environment Facility,[31]/

1. Welcomes the significant progress made by the Executive Director in strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as an implementing agency of the Global Environment Facility as evidenced by the unprecedented growth of its portfolio, the large number of participating countries as well as the quality and strategic focus of its activities;

2. Welcomes also the progress achieved in the implementation of the United Nations Environment Programme/Global Environment Facility action plan on complementarity between the activities undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme under the Global Environment Facility and its programme of work adopted by the Governing Council at its twentieth session[32]/ and endorsed by the Council of the Global Environment Facility at its thirteenth meeting, held in Washington DC, 5-7 May 1999 and at which appreciation was expressed for the quality of the United Nations Environment Programme document and the United Nations Environment Programme commended for the comprehensive process of consultations that it had followed in preparing the report;

3. Further welcomes the progress achieved in the implementation of the United Nations Environment Programme/Global Environment Facility Strategic Partnership initiative and in particular the activities related to the clearing-house mechanism for the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and stresses the importance of its prompt establishment;

4. Notes with appreciation the decision adopted by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment held in Dakar from 19 to 21 October 2000, expressing its gratitude to the United Nations Environment Programme/Global Environment Facility Coordination Office for the increasing attention being accorded to the priorities of the region and in particular issues related to water and desertification;[33]/

5. Reiterates the importance attached to the partnership between the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank which constitutes the foundation of the Global Environment Facility as well as the need to enhance inter-agency collaboration;

6. Welcomes the expanded participation of regional development banks as well as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization as executing agencies of the Global Environment Facility and in particular the measures taken by the Executive Director in promoting such collaboration in accordance with the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme in the Global Environment Facility;

7. Further welcomes the general orientation by donors for a substantial and timely third replenishment of the Global Environment Facility in order to equip it for its role as a principal multilateral funding source for developing countries and countries with economies in transition in efforts to improve and protect the global environment as well as in the implementation of the Rio conventions and most recently the convention which will govern persistent organic pollutants, as well as the measures taken by the Executive Director for the third reconstitution of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of the Global Environment Facility;

31/ UNEP/GC.21/4 and INF/4.

32/ Governing Council decision 20/7 of 5 February 1999.

33/ Report of the special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (UNEP/AMCEN/CONSULT.6/1).

8. Requests the Executive Director to keep Governments informed on further progress achieved in enhancing the role and mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme in the Global Environment Facility.

10th meeting
9 February 2001

21/26. Status of international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment, 34/

Recalling its decision 24 (III) of 30 April 1975 and General Assembly resolution 3436 (XXX) of 9 December 1975,

1. Authorizes the Executive Director to transmit the report and related status table, on its behalf, together with comments made by delegations thereon, especially on the need for institutional capacity-building, as well as further information which the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme might receive by 31 May 2001, to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, in accordance with resolution 3436 (XXX);

2. Urges States that have not yet signed, ratified or acceded to conventions and protocols in the field of the environment to do so expeditiously and to proceed with their implementation;

3. Calls also on States and organizations that are in a position to do so to provide the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme with information on new conventions and protocols in the field of the environment as well as information on any changes to the status of the existing conventions and protocols in the field of the environment.

10th meeting
9 February 2001

21/27. Compliance with and enforcement of multilateral environmental agreements

The Governing Council,

Recalling the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme 20/ as well as the Malmö Ministerial Declaration, 2/

Deeply concerned that, despite many successful international and regional environmental agreements, and some progress having been achieved, environmental damage caused by illegal traffic in endangered species and dangerous and harmful substances and products is growing,

Reaffirming the importance of speedy implementation of the legal commitments contained in the multilateral environmental agreements,

Recognizing the stronger role of the International Criminal Police Organization and the World Customs Organization, which have been referred to as "Green Interpol" or "Green Customs",

34/ UNEP/GC.21/4 and INF/16.

Convinced that continuous efforts are required to be undertaken by all countries and relevant organizations and operational agencies concerned in ensuring compliance with and enforcement of multilateral environmental agreements, such as the International Criminal Police Organization, the World Customs Organization, the International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the convention secretariats,

1. Requests the Executive Director to continue the preparation of the draft guidelines on compliance with multilateral environmental agreements and on the capacity-strengthening, effective national environmental enforcement, in support of the ongoing developments of compliance regimes within the framework of international agreements and in consultation with Governments and relevant international organizations;

2. Requests the Executive Director to ensure the open-ended and transparent nature of this process;

3. Encourages the Executive Director to see the completion of this process and to submit the draft guidelines to the Governing Council for its consideration at its seventh special session in 2002.

10th meeting
9 February 2001

21/28. Further development and strengthening of regional seas programmes: promoting the conservation and sustainable use of the marine and coastal environment, building partnerships and establishing linkages with multilateral environmental agreements

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 20/19 A of 5 February 1999 and 19/14 B of 7 February 1997,

Recalling also that paragraph 74 (b) of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities,[35] adopted at Washington, D.C. on 3 November 1995, requests the United Nations Environment Programme, in its capacity as secretariat, to revitalize the Regional Seas Programme to promote and facilitate the implementation of the Global Programme of Action at the regional level,

Noting the importance that the global meetings of regional seas conventions and action plans have taken as a consultative mechanism for the revitalization of Regional Seas Programme, including the strengthening of partnerships with international organizations dedicated to marine and coastal issues and the establishment of programmatic linkages with global environmental conventions and related agreements,

Having considered the outcome of the Third Global Meeting of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, held in Monaco from 6 to 10 November 2000,[36]

1. Expresses its appreciation to the representatives of the secretariats of regional seas conventions and action plans and global environmental conventions and related international agreements for their participation and their contributions to the successful outcome of the Third Global Meeting;

2. Expresses also its appreciation to the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Maritime Organization, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural

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[35] UNEP(OCA)/LBA/IG.2/7.

[36] UNEP/GC.21/INF/14.

Organization, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the World Conservation Union and the Advisory Committee for the Protection of the Sea for their contributions to the meeting;

3. Requests the Executive Director to continue to use global meetings of regional seas conventions and action plans and other cost-effective consultative mechanisms for the work of the United Nations Environment Programme in the further strengthening of regional seas programmes and for building synergies and collaboration among environmental agreements;

4. Requests the Executive Director to invite as the secretariat of the regional seas programme the representatives of the shipping industry, the chemical industry and the tourism industry to the Fourth Global Meeting to discuss possible roles and collaboration in support of regional seas programmes.

A. The continued revitalization of the Regional Seas Programme

Having considered the work of the United Nations Environment Programme in support of regional seas conventions and action plans, 37/

Taking note with appreciation the action taken by the Executive Director to support the revitalization of the Regional Seas Programme through the provision of strategic programmatic support and the facilitation of collaborative arrangements with global environmental conventions and related agreements,

1. Requests the Executive Director to continue to give priority to the revitalization of the Regional Seas Programme as its central mechanism for implementation of its activities relevant to chapter 17 of Agenda 21, 6/ taking into account the recommendations of the Third Global Meeting of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, focusing on priority issues such as land-based sources of pollution, integrated coastal areas management, coral reefs and the development or revision of regional seas conventions and protocols;

2. Requests the Executive Director to support the preparation of a strategic approach to financing regional seas programmes and to assist them in the mobilization of resources, taking into account the wide range of funding sources available, including, but not limited to, the Global Environmental Facility, bilateral and multilateral donors, private industry and non-governmental organizations;

3. Recognizes the rejuvenation seen recently in the Caribbean Environment Programme and encourages the Executive Director to find sufficient funding to finance its activities and continued growth, as well as that of similarly well managed and under-funded regional seas programmes;

B. Horizontal cooperation among regional seas conventions and action plans

Recognizing the value of the sharing of experiences and information exchange among regional seas programmes,

Recognizing also the important technical assistance and advisory services that can be provided by the more experienced and developed regional seas programmes to those that are less developed,

Welcoming the twinning arrangements between the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission and the United Nations Environment Programme as the secretariat of the Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region (Nairobi Convention), signed in Malmö, on 30 May 2000, and between the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Environment Programme and the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment, as well as the memorandum of understanding for closer cooperation between the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Environment Programme and the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment and United Nations Environment Programme (May 2000),

37/ UNEP/GC.21/INF/6 and INF/14.

1. Requests the Executive Director to support the implementation of these twinning arrangements and to continue to facilitate the negotiation of new arrangements for horizontal cooperation among regional seas programmes;

2. Urges the Governments that are Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic and Abidjan Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region to support the ongoing negotiation of a twinning arrangement.

C. Collaboration with global environmental conventions and related international agreements

Recalling its decision 20/18 B of 4 February 1999 on strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in promoting collaboration among multilateral environmental conventions, decision 20/28 of 4 February 1999 on promoting interlinkages among global environmental issues and human needs and decision 20/19 B of 4 February 1999 on the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of Marine Environment from Land-based Activities,

Considering decision V/3 of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in May 2000 on joint programming of Convention on Biological Diversity and the regional seas conventions and action plans, 38/

Taking into account the Strategic Action Plan adopted by the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora in April 2000, which calls for closer collaboration with regional seas programmes,

1. Welcomes the action taken by the Executive Director in promoting synergies among regional seas conventions and action plans, including new twinning arrangements, and with global environmental conventions and related agreements;

2. Welcomes the cooperation of the regional seas conventions and action plans in the regional preparatory process for the first intergovernmental review meeting on implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (Montreal, November 2001), including the preparation of a one-day session on the regional seas programmes at the meeting;

3. Emphasizes that municipal wastewater, as appropriate, is a priority of the regional seas programmes in preparing their work programmes on land-based sources of pollution, as well as the need to address:

(a) Tourism, as appropriate, as a major economic activity linked to, among others, sewage and physical alteration and destruction of habitats;

(b) Agriculture and its effects on the coastal and marine environment, including nutrient over-enrichment and pesticides input to the oceans;

4. Welcomes the reinitiation of collaboration between the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and the Regional Seas Programme, including the work of the Convention's regional training centres, and the offer of the Basel Convention secretariat to assist regional seas conventions in the development of protocols on transboundary movement of hazardous wastes;

38/ Report of the fifth meeting to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, annex III (UNEP/CBD/COP.5/23).

5. Invites the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent Procedures for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the future convention on persistent organic pollutants and the Regional Seas Programme to work closely together in the implementation of capacity building and information exchange activities for assisting countries in meeting their obligations under the two chemicals-related conventions;

6. Invites the regional seas programmes, the Rotterdam Convention and the convention on persistent organic pollutants to collaborate on mutually supportive activities, such as the development and application of harmonized customs codes;

7. Requests the Executive Director to prepare an inventory of the work in chemicals undertaken by the regional seas programmes as an information base for collaborating on mutually supportive activities with the Rotterdam Convention and the convention on persistent organic pollutants;

8. Encourages the Convention on Biological Diversity and the regional seas programmes to further their collaboration in the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity, including (a) the elaboration of modalities for cooperation and (b) a commitment to identify common elements between the respective regional activities and the marine and coastal programme of work of the Convention on Biological Diversity, with a view to harmonizing work plans, bearing in mind that one issue common to all regional seas programmes and the Convention on Biological Diversity is the application of the ecosystem approach to their programmes of work;

9. Requests the Executive Director to support cooperative initiatives aimed at the harmonization of work plans of the regional seas conventions and the Convention on Biological Diversity and, where appropriate, to support the development of harmonized national reporting consistent with the guidelines approved by the respective Conference of the Parties;

10. Requests the Executive Director to facilitate cooperative arrangements between the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the regional seas programmes, including regional dialogue on problematic issues of common concern and through the facilitation of information to regional seas programmes on activities to be undertaken by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora within their respective regions;

11. Invites the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals to involve the relevant regional seas programmes at an early stage in developing and implementing regional agreements related to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals affecting marine species such as sea turtles, albatrosses, sharks, whales and marine mammals;

12. Requests the Executive Director to continue with the restructuring of the United Nations Environment Programme Marine Mammal Action Plan through a greater coordinated effort among the regional seas programmes, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Convention on Biological Diversity and relevant partner organizations, including the World Conservation Union.

D. Partnerships with international organizations

Taking into account that the seventh session of the Commission for Sustainable Development in April 1999 proposed a United Nations consultative process on oceans to provide an integrated review of economic, social, environment and legal dimensions of developments affecting oceans and seas and that this consultative process was subsequently established by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 54/33 of 24 November 1999,

Bearing in mind that, following the first meeting of the consultative process from 30 May to 2 June 2000, the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session adopted resolution 55/7 of 30 October 2000 calling for strengthening regional cooperation in specific areas, including fisheries management organizations and arrangements, integrated management and sustainable development of coastal and marine areas and capacity building, among others, and, in paragraph 42, for more effective collaboration and coordination between the relevant parts of the United Nations Secretariat and the United Nations as a whole,

Recognizing that the Administrative Committee on Coordination Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas, of which the United Nations Environment Programme is a member, is promoting enhanced inter-agency coordination within the United Nations system of activities aimed at implementing chapter 17 of Agenda 21, 6/

Taking into account the recommendations of the Third Global Meeting of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans 36/ proposing renewed cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission/United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Maritime Organization and International Atomic Energy Agency in supporting the implementation of the regional seas programmes,

1. Requests the Executive Director to promote a more active involvement of the regional seas conventions and action plans in the United Nations Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and Law of the Sea and in the regional and subregional preparatory activities being organized for the 2002 review of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and in their follow-up;

2. Requests the Executive Director, in conjunction with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to follow up on the endorsement by the Third Global Meeting of the paper on the joint United Nations Environment Programme/Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, entitled "Ecosystem-based Management of Fisheries: Opportunities and Challenges for Coordination between Marine Regional Fisheries Bodies and Regional Seas Conventions", including support to the following actions for enhancing cooperation: 39/

(a) The formalization of the observer status of the regional seas conventions and action plans at the meetings of the governing bodies of regional fisheries bodies and their technical subsidiary organs, and vice versa;

(b) Exchange data and information available at the levels of and regional seas conventions and action plans that may be of mutual interest;

(c) The organization of joint technical meetings on subjects of mutual interest;

(d) The design and implementation of joint programmes between and regional seas conventions and action plans, taking fully into account the respective mandates, objectives and scope of the regional seas programmes;

3. Welcomes the joint United Nations Environment Programme/Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations initiative on enhanced cooperation between regional fisheries bodies and regional seas conventions and action plans on issues relevant to ecosystem-based management of fisheries as a considerable contribution towards the implementation of global conventions and programmes, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, as well as the 2001 Reykjavik Conference on Responsible Fisheries in the Ecosystem (Reykjavik, between 24 and 28 September 2001);

39/ Following the Third Global Meeting, the paper was revised and will be presented to the forthcoming meeting of regional fisheries bodies organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in February 2001 for consideration and endorsement.

4. Requests the Executive Director to support the establishment of a joint International Maritime Organization/United Nations Environment Programme forum on emergency response to marine pollution with a view to exchanging experiences and to discuss issues of common concern among the regional seas conventions and action plans;

5. Requests the Executive Director to follow up on the recommendation that United Nations Environment Programme work closely with the Coastal Global Ocean Observing System, directed by Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, through a cooperative arrangement to ensure that the scientific and technical needs of regional seas programmes are fully taken into account in the development, management and implementation of the Coastal Global Ocean Observing System in particular, as well as the overall work of the Global Ocean Observing System, including the need to implement supportive capacity-building activities in regional seas programmes as required;

6. Invites the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, through its Global Ocean Observing System programme, given the complimentary scientific work that it is undertaking, to participate in the United Nations Environment Programme/Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations initiative on the ecosystem-based management of fisheries;

7. Requests the Executive Director, within available resources, to work with the Marine Environment Studies Laboratory of the International Atomic Energy Agency in supporting marine pollution sampling, monitoring and assessment activities in developing countries and countries with economies in transition that are member States of regional seas programmes;

8. Requests the Executive Director to continue strengthening partnerships with the members of the Administrative Committee on Coordination Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas in support of the implementation of regional seas programmes, including relevant programmes such as the Global International Waters Assessment and the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities.

10th meeting
9 February 2001

21/29. Establishment of a regional seas programme for the Central-East Pacific region

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 19/14 E of 7 February 1997 and 20/20 of 4 February 1999,

Bearing in mind that the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities calls on States to pursue more active participation in the negotiating processes for regional instruments, including accession or ratification, as appropriate, of regional seas agreements,

Endorsing the action taken thus far in facilitating the establishment of a regional seas programme for the Central-East Pacific region, including the results of the first meeting of High-level Government-designated Experts of the proposed Central-East Pacific Regional Seas Programme held in Panama City from 5 to 8 September 2000,

Noting with appreciation progress achieved at the Panama meeting in the negotiation of a convention for the protection and sustainable development of the Central-East Pacific,

Noting with satisfaction the decision of the Governments at the Panama meeting to commence a preparatory process in the region that will contribute to the 2001 Intergovernmental Review of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities,

1. Invites the Governments of Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama to continue with their efforts to negotiate and adopt a convention and action plan for the protection and sustainable development of the Central-East Pacific;

2. Calls for close cooperation between the proposed Central-East Pacific Regional Seas Programme, the South-East Pacific Action Plan and the Caribbean Action Plan;

3. Welcomes the offer of the Central American Commission on Maritime Transportation to host, with the support of the Government of Nicaragua, the second meeting of High-level, Government-designated Experts of the proposed Central-East Pacific Regional Seas Programme in Managua in the early part of 2001;

4. Requests the Executive Director to invite multilateral funding institutions, including the World Bank, the Global Environment Facility and the Inter-American Development Bank to future meetings of the Central-East Pacific Regional Seas Programme;

5. Requests the Executive Director, within the context of the regional seas programme of the United Nations Environment Programme, to assist the Governments of the Central-East Pacific in furthering the negotiations of a regional agreement for the protection and sustainable development of the Central-East Pacific;

6. Requests the Executive Director to submit a report on the progress in this matter to the Governing Council at its twenty-second session.

10th meeting
9 February 2001

21/30. The implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 20/19 A of 5 February 1999, in which the Governing Council stressed the need for the United Nations Environment Programme to strengthen the regional seas programme as the central mechanism for implementation of its activities relevant to chapter 17 of Agenda 21, 6/

Taking into account the resolutions of the fourth, fifth and sixth intergovernmental meetings of the Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region concerning the establishment of the Regional Coordinating Unit for the Action Plan,

Mindful of the programme of work adopted at the Fifth Intergovernmental Meeting (Inch'on, the Republic of Korea, 29-30 March 2000), and the decision of the Sixth Intergovernmental Meeting (Tokyo, 5-6 December 2000) in its resolution 1 to incorporate into the Action Plan a priority programme element on land-based sources of pollution, including participation in the preparatory process leading to the First Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Sources of Poilution,

1. Welcomes the decision of the Sixth Intergovernmental Meeting to establish a Regional Coordinating Unit for the Action Plan to be administered by the United Nations Environment Programme and co-hosted by Toyama, Japan and Pusan, the Republic of Korea;

2. Notes with satisfaction progress achieved in the implementation of the Action Plan's programme of work, including the establishment of a priority project on land-based sources of pollution, including participation in the preparatory process leading to the First Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities;

3. Notes with appreciation the support provided by the United Nations Environment Programme to the implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan;

4. Requests the Executive Director to establish the Northwest Pacific Action Plan Regional Coordinating Unit as a United Nations Environment Programme-administered secretariat of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan;

5. Further requests the Executive Director to enter into negotiations with Japan and the Republic of Korea for the host country agreements for co-hosting a single Regional Coordinating Unit in the terms reflected in resolution 2 in the report of the Sixth Intergovernmental Meeting in accordance with United Nations rules and regulations and to inform, and if necessary, consult with the other member States, on the progress of such negotiations;

6. Approves the extension of the duration of the Northwest Pacific Plan Trust Fund through 2003.

10th meeting
9 February 2001

21/31. The Environment Fund budgets: Proposed biennial programme and support budget for 2002-2003

The Governing Council,

Having considered the proposed biennial programme and support budget for 2002-2003,[40] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[41]

1. Approves the programme of work for the biennium 2002-2003, taking into account the relevant decisions of the Council;

2. Approves appropriations for the Environment Fund in the amount of $119.9 million for the purposes indicated below:

2002-2003 Biennial programme and support budget
(Thousands of US dollars)

Programme of work	
Environmental assessment and early warning	23 000.0
Environmental policy development and law	13 925.0
Environmental policy implementation	8 000.0
Technology, industry and economics	21 350.0
Regional cooperation and representation	21 025.0
Environmental conventions	6 975.0
Communications and public information	5 725.0
Total programme of work	100 000.0
Fund programme reserve	5 000.0
Support budget	14 876.3
Grand total	119 876.3

[40] UNEP/GC.21/6.

[41] UNEP/GC.21/6/Add.1.

3. Reconfirms the authority of the Executive Director to reallocate resources between programmes up to a maximum of 20 per cent of the appropriation to which the resources are reallocated;

4. Urges the Executive Director to further increase the level of the financial reserve to 20 million dollars as and when carry-over resources become available over and above those needed to implement the programme approved for the bienniums 2000-2001 and 2002-2003;

5. Authorizes the Executive Director to adjust on a pro rata basis the level of allocations for programme activities to bring it into line with possible variations in income compared to the approved level of appropriations;

6. Recommends that the Executive Director, in light of possible financial constraints, take a cautious approach to the creation of additional posts under the Environment Fund programme;

7. Requests the Executive Director to keep Governments specifically informed, through the Committee of Permanent Representatives on a quarterly basis and the Governing Council at its regular and special sessions, of reallocations of the appropriations or adjustments of the allocation;

8. Notes that the proposed 2002-2003 budget has been formulated in line with the harmonized budget format developed by the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund, and that the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions have been fully taken into account;

9. Endorses the formats of the budget and programme of work presented for the biennium 2002-2003, including the harmonized budget and programme of work presenting overall strategies, performance indicators, regulatory mandate, objectives, outputs and partners of each subprogramme, and requests the Executive Director to apply this format, or refinements thereof, in the presentation of future biennial budgets and programmes of work in line with relevant United Nations rules and procedures;

10. Welcomes the extensive consultations between the Executive Director and the Committee of Permanent Representatives in preparing the draft budget and programme of work for the biennium 2002-2003 and requests the Executive Director to regularize such consultations for the preparation of each biennial budget and programme of work;

11. Requests the Committee of Permanent Representatives to consult with the Executive Director on ways to provide the Governing Council and the Committee of Permanent Representatives with further information, including financial information and on the subprogramme levels, on the distribution at the regional level of the activities of the programme of work;

12. Expresses its appreciation to those Governments that have contributed to the Environment Fund in the biennium 2000-2001 and appeals to all Governments to contribute to the Environment Fund or to increase their support to the United Nations Environment Programme, in cash and/or in kind, in order to permit the full implementation of the programme;

13. Expresses growing concern over the shrinking number of countries that contributed to the Fund in 2000;

14. Recognizes the pressing need to broaden the base of contributions to include all Governments, especially countries that have developed a greater capacity to pay;

15. Urges all Governments, where possible, to pay their contributions prior to the year to which the contributions relate or, at the latest, at the beginning of the year to which they relate, in order to enable the United Nations Environment Programme to plan and execute the Fund programme more effectively;

16. Urges all Governments, where possible, to make pledges of their future contributions to the Environment Fund at least one year in advance of the year to which they relate, and if possible, on a multi-year basis;

17. Approves the recommendation by the Executive Director that the outstanding pledges in 1995-1996 not be regarded as assets for accounting purposes;

18. Approves the proposed staffing tables under the Environment Fund biennial support budget for 2002-2003 as set out in the Executive Director's report;

19. Notes that the proposed appropriation of Environment Fund resources in the biennium 2002-2003 in the amount of $14.87 million for the biennial support budget is conditional on an increase in funding from the United Nations regular budget for the United Nations Office at Nairobi and/or the United Nations Environment Programme in the biennium 2002-2003;

20. Notes with concern that the present level of funding from the United Nations regular budget to the United Nations Environment Programme is not sufficient to provide for the core functions of the Programme, as stipulated in section II, paragraph 3 of resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972 of the General Assembly;

21. Appeals to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, in order to strengthen the United Nations Environment Programme, to consider positively a substantial increase in the regular budget allocation to the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Office at Nairobi in the United Nations regular budget for the biennium 2002-2003;

22. Requests the Executive Director to provide financial details of work programmes to Governments in accordance with article VI of the General Procedures governing the Operations of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme, if so requested;

23. Requests the Executive Director, further to article VI of the General Procedures governing the operations of the Fund, to make available to Governments, twice a year, information on progress made in the implementation of the programme of work. This information shall be structured according to the programme of work;

24. Requests the Executive Director to ensure that ear-marked contributions to the United Nations Environment Programme, apart from those for which the United Nations Environment Programme merely acts as a treasurer, fund activities that are in line with the programme of work;

25. Authorizes the Executive Director to enter into forward commitments not exceeding $20 million for Fund programme activities for the biennium 2004-2005;

26. Requests the Executive Director to prepare for the biennium 2004-2005 a programme of work consisting of Fund programme activities with a cost of $120.0 million;

27. Requests the Executive Director to submit a finalized draft budget and work programme for consideration and approval by the Governing Council at its twenty-second session.

10th meeting
9 February 2001

21/32. Administrative and other budgetary matters

A. Stable, adequate and predictable funding of the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Recalling the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme 20/ and the Malmö Ministerial Declaration, 2/ both of which emphasized, inter alia, the need to broaden the financial basis of the United Nations Environment Programme and make it more predictable in order for the United Nations Environment Programme to undertake its mandate effectively,

Concerned that the total financial resources for the implementation of the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme have not increased over the last three years, and the annual contributions to the Environment Fund have decreased from about $47.5 million in 1998 to $44.0 million in 1999 and to an estimated $41.3 million in 2000,

Concerned further that the support from the United Nations regular budget has not increased in the implementation of the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Expressing its appreciation to those Governments that have increased their contributions to the Environment Fund, trust funds and counterpart contributions since 1998,

1. Supports the strategy on resource mobilization for the United Nations Environment Programme, as contained in the report of the Executive Director; [42]/

2. Requests the Executive Director to make renewed and additional efforts towards improving financial situation of the United Nations Environment Programme, especially towards increasing the number of countries contributing to the Environment Fund;

3. Stresses the need for a broadened base of contributions and for stable, adequate and predictable funding of the United Nations Environment Programme;

4. Calls upon Governments as well as other relevant parties, including non-State actors, to provide stable and predictable financial and other resources to the United Nations Environment Programme, taking into account the strategy on resource mobilization for the United Nations Environment Programme;

5. Requests the Executive Director to implement the strategy and keep Governments informed, through the Committee of Permanent Representatives, of the progress in its implementation, especially on progress on fund-raising from non-State actors and on responses to special initiatives and emergency actions.

B. Management of trust funds and counterpart contributions

The Governing Council,

1. Notes and approves the following trust funds established since the twentieth session of the Governing Council:

(a) General trust funds:

(i) General Trust Fund for the Conservation of African-Eurasian Waterbirds Agreement, established in 2000 with an expiry date of 31 December 2002;

42/ UNEP/GC.21/7/Add.1.

(ii) General Trust Fund for the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltics and North Seas Agreement, established in 2001 with an expiry date of 31 December 2003;

(iii) General Trust Fund for the Clean-up of Environmental Hotspots following the Kosovo Conflicts and Preparation of Guidelines on Assessment and Remedial Measures for Post-conflict Environmental Damages, established in 2000 with an expiry date of 31 March 2003;

(iv) General Trust Fund in Support of the United Nations Environment Programme/United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) Balkans Task Force on Environment and Human Settlements, established in 1999 with an expiry date of 31 December 1999;

(v) General Trust Fund for the Conservation of the European Bats Agreement, established in 2001 with an expiry date of 31 December 2003;

(vi) General Trust Fund for Implementing National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, established in 1999 with no fixed expiry date;

(vii) General Trust Fund in Support of the Lusaka Agreement Task Force on Cooperative Enforcement Operations directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora, established in 1999 with an expiry date of 31 December 2000.

(b) Technical cooperation trust funds:

(i) Technical Cooperation Trust fund for the Provision of a Senior Professional Officer to the United Nations Environment Programme (financed by the Government of Canada and other donors), established in 2000 with an expiry date of 31 March 2002;

(ii) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Global Environment Facility Fee-based System of Funding Projects Implementation, established in 1999 with no fixed expiry date;

(iii) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Provision of Support to the Global International Waters Project (financed by the Government of the United States of America), established in 1999 with an expiry date of 31 December 2003;

(iv) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the United Nations Environment Programme/Global Environment Facility Strategic Partnership, established in 1999 with no fixed expiry date;

(v) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation of the United Nations Environment Programme-United Nations Conference on Trade and Development Capacity-building Task Force on Activities on Trade, Environment and Development which was established in 2000 with no fixed expiry date.

2. Also notes and approves the extension of the following trust funds by the Executive Director:

General trust funds:

(i) General Trust Fund for Additional Voluntary Contributions in Support of Approved Activities under the Convention on Biological Diversity, through 31 December 2002;

(ii) General Trust Fund in Support of the United Nations Environment Programme/United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) Balkans Task Force on Environment and Human Settlements, through 31 December 2000;

(iii) General Trust Fund for the Convention on Biological Diversity, through 31 December 2002;

(iv) General Trust Fund for Voluntary Contributions to Facilitate the Participation of Parties in the Process of the Convention on Biological Diversity, through 31 December 2002;

(v) Trust Fund for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, through 31 December 2002;

(vi) Trust Fund for the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, through 31 December 2002.

3. Approves the extensions of the following trust funds subject to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme receiving requests to do so from the relevant Governments or contracting parties:

(a) General trust funds:

(i) General Trust Fund for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, through 31 December 2004;

(ii) General Trust Fund for the Conservation of African-Eurasian Waterbirds Agreement, through 31 December 2004;

(iii) General Trust Fund for Additional Voluntary Contributions in Support of Approved Activities under the Convention on Biological Diversity, through 31 December 2004;

(iv) General Trust Fund for the Convention on Biological Diversity, through 31 December 2004;

(v) General Trust Fund for Voluntary Contributions to Facilitate the Participation of Parties in the Process of the Convention on Biological Diversity, through 31 December 2004;

(vi) Regional Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme, through 31 December 2003;

(vii) Trust Fund for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, through 31 December 2004;

(viii) Regional Seas Trust Fund for the Eastern African Region, through 31 December 2003;

(ix) Regional Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of East Asian Seas, through 31 December 2003;

(x) Trust Fund for the Environmental Training Network in Latin America and the Caribbean, through 31 December 2003;

(xi) General Trust Fund in Support of the Lusaka Agreement Task Force on Cooperative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora, through 31 December 2003;

(xii) Trust Fund for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution, through 31 December 2003;

(xiii) Trust Fund for the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, through 31 December 2004;

(xiv) General Trust Fund for the Protection, Management and Development of Coastal and Marine Environment and the Resources of the Northwest Pacific Region, through 31 December 2003;

(xv) Trust Fund for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of West and Central African Region, through 31 December 2003.

(b) Technical cooperation trust funds:

(i) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist the Implementation of Agenda 21 in Europe and to Strengthen the Pan-European Environmental Cooperation (financed by the Government of the Netherlands), through 31 December 2003;

(ii) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Support Establishment of Regional Centres under the Basel Convention (financed by the Government of Switzerland), through 31 December 2003;

(iii) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Strengthen the Institutional and Regulatory Capacity of Developing Countries in Africa (financed by the Government of the Netherlands), through 31 December 2003;

(iv) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the United Nations Environment Programme's Implementation of the Activities Funded by the Global Environment Facility, through 30 June 2003;

(v) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist Implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances the Deplete the Ozone Layer in Developing Countries (Financed by the Government of Sweden), through 31 December 2003;

(vi) INFOTERRA Technical Cooperation Trust Fund (financed by the Government of the United States of America), through 31 December 2003.

4. Notes and approves the closure of the following trust funds by the Executive Director subject to completion of their activities and clearance of all financial implications:

(a) General trust funds:

(i) General Trust Fund in Support of the United Nations Environment Programme/United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) Balkans Task Force on Environment and Human Settlements.

(b) Technical cooperation trust funds:

(ii) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund in Support of the Network for Environmental Training at Tertiary Level in Asia and the Pacific (financed by the Government of Denmark);

(iii) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Promote Technical Cooperation and Assistance in Industrial, Environmental and Raw Material Management (financed by the Government of Sweden);

(iv) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Provision of Junior Professional Officers (financed by the Government of Australia).

10th meeting
9 February 2001

21/33. Loan from the Environment Fund financial reserve

The Governing Council,

Having considered the note of the Executive Director on construction of additional office accommodation at the United Nations complex Nairobi, [43]/

Noting that this transaction will not have any adverse effects on the delivery of the Environment Fund Programme,

1. Authorizes the Executive Director to approve an advance of up to $8 million from the Environment Fund financial reserve to the United Nations Secretariat on a loan basis towards the construction of additional office accommodation, subject to and without prejudice to the final approval of the construction by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and, as appropriate, other competent authorities according to United Nations rules and procedures;

2. Requests the Executive Director to ensure that the agreement between the United Nations Secretariat and the United Nations Environment Programme on the loan includes a provision that there should be an immediate repayment, should this be requested by him;

3. Requests the Executive Director to submit regular status reports on this matter to the Committee of Permanent Representatives and to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-second session on the implementation of this decision.

10th meeting
9 February 2001

21/34. Mercure satellite communications system

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 17/38 of 21 May 1993, 18/47 of 25 May 1995, 19/30 of 7 February 1997 and 20/30 of 4 February 1999,

Noting with satisfaction the successes achieved by the Mercure satellite communications system since its establishment in 1994, particularly in strengthening the facilities of the United Nations in Nairobi through innovative services such as cost-effective Internet and video-conferencing fully compatible with the rest of the United Nations system,

Having considered the Executive Director's report on a management review of UNEP/Mercure and the UNEPnet Implementation Centre, [44]/

1. Requests the Executive Director to implement the action plan presented in the report of the Executive Director to address the strategic information and communication technology requirements of the United Nations Environment Programme in close collaboration with major stakeholders, while ensuring the continuity of services currently provided through UNEPnet/Mercure to the United Nations Environment Programme and to other United Nations bodies and agencies in Nairobi through close operational relationship with the United Nations Office at Nairobi;

2. Welcomes the action taken by the Executive Director to implement the Mercure system with a view to ensuring efficient telecommunications and maximize cost efficiency and to provide this service on a cost-recovery basis to the United Nations bodies and agencies in Nairobi;

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[43]/ UNEP/GC.21/CW/CRP.1.
[44]/ UNEP/GC.21/7/Add.2.

3. Authorizes the Executive Director to make direct donation of the Mercure ground station facilities implemented at partner sites in Bolivia, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Kazakhstan, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger and Viet Nam, effective as of the end of 2001, and requests the Executive Director to invite them to continue participation in Mercure on a cost-sharing basis;

4. Requests the Executive Director to further collaboration with donor countries to continue the activities of the UNEPnet Implementation Centre, especially the development of national capacity in environmental information servicing in those Mercure partner countries utilizing UNEPnet/Mercure;

5. Requests the Executive Director to invite the other United Nations bodies and agencies at the United Nations Office at Nairobi to utilize Mercure on a cost-sharing basis;

6. Requests the Executive Director to report biannually to the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the further development of the Mercure telecommunications system for the United Nations in Nairobi with special emphasis on its costs and cost recovery;

7. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-second session on the implementation of the action plan for information and communication technologies.

10th meeting
9 February 2001

Other decisions

Provisional agenda, date and place of the seventh special session of the Governing Council/ Global Ministerial Environment Forum and the twenty-second session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

(a) Seventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

1. At the 10th plenary meeting of the session, on 9 February 2001, the Governing Council decided, in order to allow due consideration of the preparatory process for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, 24/ to request the Executive Director to hold consultations with the member States of the Governing Council on date and place of the seventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, and to report thereon to the Bureau. The seventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum would decide on preparations to be made by the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, including its further consideration of the question of international environmental governance in the context of sustainable development.

2. The Council also decided to request the Bureau, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives and with the support of the Executive Director, and taking into account the outcome of the consultations held in accordance with paragraph 1 of this decision, to decide on the date and place of the seventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum. The Council requested delegations to communicate their views on the matter to the Executive Director.

3. The Council further decided that the Bureau's decision should be taken not later than 31 July 2001 and that thereafter the Executive Director should communicate the decision to all members of the Council.

(b) Twenty-second session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

1. At the 10th plenary meeting of the session, on 9 February 2001, the Governing Council decided, in accordance with rules 1, 2 and 4 of its rules of procedure, to hold its twenty-second session/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at Nairobi from 3 to 7 February 2003.

2. The Council also decided that the informal consultations among heads of delegations should be held in the afternoon of Sunday, 2 February 2003, the day before the opening of the session/forum.

3. The Council further approved the following provisional agenda for its twenty-second session/forum:

1. Opening of the session/forum.

2. Organization of the session/forum:

   (a) Election of officers;

   (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session/forum.

3. Credentials of representatives.

4. Policy issues:

   (a) State of the environment;

   (b) Emerging policy issues;

   (c) Coordination and cooperation within and outside the United Nations, including non-governmental organizations;

   (d) The role of civil society;

   (e) International environmental governance.

5. Follow-up of General Assembly resolutions.

6. Outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

7. Linkages among and support to environmental and environment-related conventions.

8. Contribution to future sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

9. Programme, the Environment Fund and administrative and other budgetary matters.

10. Provisional agenda, date and place of:

    (a) The eighth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;

    (b) The twenty-third session of the Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

11. Other matters.

12. Adoption of the report.

13. Closure of the session.

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